



Sports
ROHIT BIDS ADIEU
TO TEST

P.12

MONEY
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prices lower
meal cost in Apr



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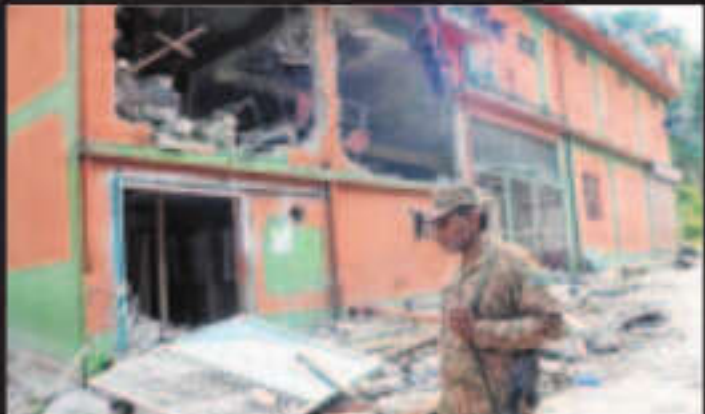
Edit Action, reaction & a lesson **P.6**

Cinema SRK's stylish thanks **P.14**



OPERATION SINDOOR | 24 Strikes at 9 terror camps in Pok, Pakistan's Punjab hit, 70 terrorists killed

25 MINUTES OF FURY



Damage assessment: Pakistani troops inspect destruction wrought by Indian defence forces

—AGENCIES

Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar
NEW DELHI

Exactly a fortnight after the Pahalgalam terror attack in which 26 people were identified on the basis of religion and killed by terrorist, India launched 'Operation Sindoor' early on Thursday morning hitting nine terrorist training camps and launchpads inside Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) with 24 missile strikes.

The strikes, which took place within a span of 25 minutes, left a large number of suspected terrorists dead and injured at the nine locations at Muzaffarabad, Kotli, Bahawalpur, Rawalakot, Chakswari, Bhimber, Neelum Valley, Jhelum and Chakwa in Pakistan and as per unconfirmed reports around 70 terrorists were killed and another 60 injured.

Media reports from Pakistan also cited Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar claiming that 10 members of his family and four aides were killed in the attack at Bahawalpur. Besides JeM, the Indian armed forces had also targeted bases of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and the Lashkar-e-Taiba, whose offshoot, The Resistance Front, had claimed responsibility for the Pahalgalam attack.

The first of the strikes took place around 1 am. The Additional Director General of Public Information of Indian Army posted on "X" about it with

"#JusticeServed". It wrote that "Target 1" was Abbas Terrorist Camp at Kotli at a distance of 13 Km from LoC (POJK). Describing it as the "nerve centre for training suicide bombers of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)", the Army said this centre that provided "key training infrastructure for over 50 terrorists" was destroyed at 1.04 am.

At 1.44 am, the Ministry of Defence announced that the armed forces had launched Operation Sindoor hitting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK. It categorically stated that the actions were "focused, measured and non-escalatory in nature" and that "no Pakistani military facilities have been targeted." In a clear message that India did not desire escalation, the note had also stated that India "demonstrated considerable restraint in selection of targets and method of execution".

The MoD had also specified that a detailed press conference will be held at 10 am. In the morning, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri briefed the media about Operation Sindoor. He said the Pahalgalam attack was "driven by the objective of undermining normalcy returning to Kashmir" and "the family members were deliberately traumatised through the manner of killing, accompanied by the exhortation that they should take back the message."

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NOW, OUR WOMEN 'PIN THEM DOWN'

Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar
NEW DELHI

Two highly decorated women officers of the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army were on Tuesday given the all-important role of briefing officers by the Centre for explaining the details of Oper-



No military installations were targeted. The strikes were focused solely on infrastructure linked to cross-border terrorism

Col Sofiya Qureshi

ation Sindoor to the media. After Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri briefed the media, the floor was handed over to Colonel Sophia Qureshi (R) and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh (L) and who through an audio-video presentation showed how the infrastructure of the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and the Hizb-

ul-Mujahideen was dismantled through the strikes on nine of their locations in Pakistan and PoK. Of the sites targeted, four were of JeM, three of LeT and two of HuM. By bringing forth the two officers India also demonstrated that it would not let Pakistan sow any seeds of discord within its communities. The officers

Indian armed forces are fully prepared to respond to Pakistani misadventures, if any that will escalate this situation

Wing Commander Vyomika Singh

► Continued on | P.8

18 airports shut, 200 flights grounded

More than 200 flights have been cancelled and at least 18 airports, including Srinagar, have been temporarily shut for operations amid restrictions in the wake of the armed forces launching missile attacks against Pakistan on Wednesday morning. According to the source, more than 200 flights to and from various airports have been cancelled by airlines, with IndiGo alone cancelling around 160 flights.

PM Modi briefs Prez

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday met President Droupadi Murmu and briefed her on Indian armed forces' precision strikes at terrorist hideouts in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). "Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan and briefed her about Operation Sindoor," the president's office said in a post on X and shared pictures of the meeting.



10 of Masood Azhar's family killed



J-e-M chief Maulana Masood Azhar acknowledged on Wednesday that 10 members of his family and four close associates were killed in India's missile attack on the outfit's headquarters in Bahawalpur. A statement attributed to Azhar said those killed in the attack on Jamia Masjid Subhan Allah in Bahawalpur included his elder sister and her husband, a nephew and his wife, another niece, and five children from his extended family.

Pak: Ready to ease tensions if India de-escalates

PTI
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan is ready to "wrap up" tensions with India, if New Delhi de-escalates the situation, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said on Wednesday.

His remarks came hours after India carried out a military strike on terror targets in

Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Asif was reported as saying by Bloomberg Television that Pakistan will only respond if attacked.

"We have been saying all along in the last fortnight that we'll never initiate anything hostile towards India. But if we're attacked, we'll respond. If India backs down, we will definitely wrap up this tension," he said.

Regarding the possibility of talks, the minister said he was not aware of any such potential engagements.

Indian armed forces early Wednesday carried out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the Pahalgalam terror attack

Flagging the truth: Pak soldiers mourn terrorists



Despite denying links to terrorism, Pakistan's hypocrisy was exposed on Wednesday as its soldiers attended funeral prayers of terrorists killed in an Indian missile strike in Muridke — with coffins wrapped in Pak national flag

Opposition unites around response

Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties on Wednesday hailed the Indian Armed forces in one voice after they carried out precision strikes against terrorist organisations in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir in response to the Pahalgalam terror attack.

While some of the leaders were brief in their appreciation or just saluted the nation and the forces, others went on to state what they stood for.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi led the Congress in declaring that he was "Proud of our Armed Forces." He also wrote "Jai Hind!" along with it in his post on "X". His sister and Congress general secretary and MP Priyanka Gandhi

Vadra was more elaborate and posted: "We are extremely proud of our army. Our brave soldiers protect our freedom and integrity. May God protect them and give them immense courage to face challenges with patience and bravery. Jai Hind."

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who had only recently criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not preventing the Pahalgalam attack despite intelligence inputs, stated that "India has an unflinching national policy against all forms of terrorism emanating from Pakistan and PoK. We are extremely proud of our Indian Armed Forces who have stuck terror camps in Pakistan and PoK. We applaud their resolute resolve and courage."

► Continued on | P.8

ALL-PARTY MEET TODAY

In the wake of Operation Sindoor, the Centre has convened an all-party meeting on Thursday at 11 a.m. to brief the nation's political leadership on the strategic strikes. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju made the announcement on Wednesday and wrote on X, "Govt has called an All Party leaders meeting at 11 am on 8th May, 2025 at Committee Room: G-074, in the Parliament Library Building, Parliament Complex in New Delhi." Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan and formally briefed her on the operation.

Mock drill in 5 cities tests war readiness

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

In a massive state-wide civil defence simulation, mock drills were conducted on Wednesday across five major districts of Madhya Pradesh — Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior and Katni. The coordinated exercise, held as per directives of the Ministry of Home Affairs, aimed at preparing forces and civilians alike for war-like emergency scenarios.

The drills kicked off around 4

CM MONITORS DRILL, URGES AWARENESS

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav reviewed the drill operations across all five cities and held discussions with district collectors. He said that every district must remain alert and complete all necessary civil defence preparations. He also directed that civilians be educated about emergency protocols to protect themselves in crises. "Public participation and awareness are key to a safe and effective response," CM said, calling on officials to intensify civil defence outreach efforts.

PM and continued into the evening with a city-wide blackout, plunging urban areas into total darkness for several minutes. This was followed by emergency response rehearsals,

where police and civil defence units simulated fire control, rescue of injured civilians and emergency evacuations.

► Continued on | P.8



Indoreans stand still, switch off vehicle lights to observe 12-minute voluntary black out on Wednesday as part of mock drill

Coaching centre owner held in Love Jihad case

24 obscene videos found

FP News Service
MORENA

In a shocking revelation, police nabbed Aslam Khan alias Abhi, owner of a computer coaching centre named Abhi Insaniyat in Jiwajiganj, on charges of blackmail, sexual exploitation, and Love Jihad. The arrest followed com-

plaints from a victim's family and members of the Hindu Jagran Manch.

Khan allegedly posed as a Hindu named 'Abhi' and lured female students into his institute by showcasing his supposed devotion to Lord Shiva. Daily writings of Shiv Mahima on the classroom blackboard and multiple photos of Lord Shiva on the premises were used as a cover to mislead students and parents. Police recovered 24 objectionable



Aslam Khan alias Abhi

videos recorded through hidden cameras installed in the institute's library. The videos allegedly show Khan engaging in obscene acts with female students, whom he later blackmailed by threatening to leak the footage.

► Continued on | P.8



Flawless mission: PM tells Cabinet

Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar
NEW DELHI

It was a long night and day for Prime Minister Narendra Modi as after attending a media event on Tuesday evening, he monitored the conduct of Operation Sindoor early on Wednesday morning and then held a number of meetings to both review the operation and sent across a message of it being "business as usual" for India as a number of non-strategic decisions were taken in a Cabinet meeting.

Later in the morning Modi first met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval who briefed him about the strikes as also how the armed forces were prepared for any kind of response to them from Pakistan. The situation in Jammu and Kashmir, where Pakistan had retaliated by shelling, resulting in loss of lives and property, was also discussed. The PM had given full operational freedom to choose the mode, target and timing for their response to the Pahalgalam attack.

The PM then conducted a

PM cancels Europe trip

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called off his scheduled three-nation Europe tour in the wake of heightened tensions with Pakistan, sources confirmed on Wednesday. PM Modi was scheduled to travel to Croatia, Norway and the Netherlands starting May 13 and also participate in the 3rd India-Nordic Summit in Oslo on May 15-16. Last month, PM Modi had cut short his Saudi Arabia visit and returned home immediately after the Pahalgalam attack. PM also decided not to travel to Moscow to attend the Victory Day celebrations of Russia. —IANS

meeting of the Cabinet in which decisions were taken on several non-strategic issues. He is learnt to have told the Cabinet that it was a "proud moment for everyone" and since "the entire nation was looking towards us".

► Continued on | P.8

Sajjad Gul, Lashkar link to Pahalgalam



PTI
NEW DELHI

Sheikh Sajjad Gul, a 50-year-old Kashmiri and head of Lashkar-e-Taiba proxy The Resistance Front (TRF), has emerged as the mastermind of the Pahalgalam terror attack, officials revealed on Wednesday.

Holed up in the Cantonment town of Rawalpindi, Pakistan, under the patronage of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Gul, who also goes by the alias of Sajjad Ahmed Sheikh, has been a planner of a number of terror attacks, including targeted killings between 2020 and 2024 in Central and South Kashmir, grenade attacks in Central Kashmir in 2023, ambush of J&K police personnel in Bijbehra in Anantnag, Gangir, Z-Morh Tunnel attack in Ganderbal. The NIA had designated him a terrorist in April 2022, with a reward of Rs 10 lakh.

The official said that during the investigation into the Pahalgalam attack, links and some communications have been traced back to Gul. Used by Pakistan's external snooping agency ISI as a Kashmiri face of the local Punjabi-dominated Lashkar-e-Taiba, Sheikh was educated in Srinagar and did his MBA from Bangalore, later pivoting to a lab technician course in Kerala.

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TERROR CAMPS DESTROYED | Sweets, slogans, solidarity take centre-stage



"RETIRED ARMY OFFICERS SALUTE THE COURAGE OF INDIAN SOLDIERS, CALLING THE STRIKE A MOMENT OF JUSTICE FOR THE NATION."

CITY CELEBRATES WITH 'SINDOOR KHELA'



They must be killed, says widow

Jennifer Nathaniel, widow of Sushil Nathaniel, a victim of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, demanded justice for her husband's death. "Those four who attacked without fear must be punished the same way," she said, emphasising the need for accountability. Her plea follows Operation Sindoor, where Indian forces targeted terror bases in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Jennifer's powerful words have sparked a wave of patriotic sentiment across the nation, urging the government to ensure the attackers face justice beyond airstrikes. The country stands united in demand for justice.



"Young students and NCC cadets at Chappan Dukaan join the celebration with Gunjan Sharma president of Chappan Dukan, chanting 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and expressing pride in the Armed Forces.

At Chappan Dukaan, the city's iconic food street, hundreds of people gathered to show their support for the armed forces. NCC cadets, waving the national flag, led the patriotic charge with slogans like "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Hum

deshe ke liye samarpit hain!" Their chants echoed the city's pride in the valour of Indian soldiers.

Ex-army officers were also present at the site. "Thanks to the bravery of our soldiers, we are able to stand here and celebrate in peace," said one retired officer. "This is not just a

strike—it is justice for all who have suffered." The Chappan Food Association stepped in to add warmth to the occasion by distributing free food to everyone present. Families, elders and youth all shared meals in a collective spirit of gratitude and solidarity.

Our Staff Reporter

INDORE

A wave of patriotic celebration swept across Indore as news broke of the successful Operation Sindoor—India's powerful counterstrike targeting terror hideouts across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir. The precision airstrikes, carried out by the Indian Armed Forces, dismantled nine terror bases in Bawalpur, Muridke, Sialkot and PoK—sending a clear message that the nation will not tolerate violence against its citizens.

The City erupted in a display of unity and national pride, with citizens, cadets, spiritual leaders, political figures and students all joining in a spontaneous outpouring of emotion.

On Kanadia Road, during a Bhagwat Katha at Sanvid Nagar, spiritual leader Sudhanshu Ji Maharaj and BJP leader Raja Kothari publicly torched a Pakistani flag on the stage. Thousands of

women and devotees present erupted in chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Indian Army Zindabad." The mood was one of reverence and resolve. "We thank our Prime Minister for taking bold steps to defend our nation," Kothari declared.



Thousands gather at the Bhagwat Katha on Kanadia Road, where spiritual leader Sudhanshu Ji Maharaj and BJP leader Raja Kothari set the Pakistani flag ablaze, hailing India's airstrike as divine justice.

Devi Ahilya University celebrated the Indian Army's successful surgical strike on terror camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) under the leadership of the vice chancellor. University officials and staff gathered at the RNT Marg campus, raising slogans like "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Indian Army Zindabad," showing

their support for the Indian Army and the government. The vice chancellor praised the Army's bravery, expressing national pride. The event was attended by key officials, including acting registrar Prajwal Khare, deputy registrar Rachna Thakur and other faculty members, urging everyone to continue supporting the nation's interests.



Students and staff at DAVV chant slogans and wave the Tricolour as Vice Chancellor Dr Rakesh Singhal leads a spirited rally to salute the Indian Armed Forces

Sarabvijay Mahayajna was held at the ancient Hansdas Math in Peliakhil, to celebrate the success of 'Operation Sindoor' and pray for the eradication of evil forces.

Under the guidance of saints, Mahamandaleshwars and prominent leaders like Mahant Ramcharandas Maharaj, Mahant Radhe Radhe Baba and others, the yagna was conducted with chanting of

prayers and hymns in praise of India's strength. The saints prayed for the well-being of Prime Minister Modi, the Indian Armed Forces, and the complete victory over enemies of the nation.

Moving to Navlakha, the celebration took the sweet route as citizens handed out jalebis—symbolising victory and happiness. "When India rejoices, it does so with sweets," said a local resident. "This is our way of saying thank you to our soldiers."



Locals at Navlakha distribute jalebis in celebration of Operation Sindoor, marking the moment with sweets and patriotic joy.



Saints celebrate Operation Sindoor's success



Saints gather at Regal Square, performing a powerful shankhnaad and burning the Pakistani flag to condemn terrorism and honour India's military strike.

Even government leaders joined the celebrations. Urban development minister Kailash Vijayvargiya visited Reoti Range, where he met soldiers and

personally distributed sweets. "This is more than a military operation—it is a moral victory. The entire country stands with our heroes," he said, applauding the discipline and

courage of the troops. As the chants continued to echo and flags waved in every direction, Indore proved once again that patriotism is not just a feeling—it's a force.

FLIGHTS FOR JAMMU & JODHPUR SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY

INDORE

Owing to the military tension at the borders of the country, the flight operations for two destinations

near the Pakistan border Jammu and Jodhpur have been suspended indefinitely, said aviation sources. Both these flights depart from the city in the morning. The air-

lines gave this information in a message sent to the passengers along with the advisory. However, the passengers received the information this morning, by

which time some passengers had already reached the airport. Some of these passengers started demanding refund from the airlines, whereas some of them postponed

their journey to a later date. IndiGo operates the flights for both destinations. The flight for Jammu departs at 9 am and reaches

there in two hours at 11 am. The flight for Jodhpur departs from the city at 10:40 am and lands in the blue city of Rajasthan, Jodhpur at 12:20 pm.

GIRL DIES IN ROAD ACCIDENT AFTER CLASS 10 RESULT CELEBRATION



Our Staff Reporter

INDORE

What began as a day of joy turned into a nightmare for a family in Bajrang Nagar when 15-year-old Anushka Tiwari, who had just cleared her Class 10 exams with first division, died in a road accident while returning from her maternal grandmother's house.

Anushka, who had dreams of becoming a civil servant,

had gone with her mother to celebrate the milestone by sharing sweets and blessings with her relatives.

The day started with a visit to a temple and ended with applause at her grandmother's home in Lahiya Colony. But around 10:30 PM, while returning on a scooter near Brilliant Convention Centre, a speeding vehicle hit them, flinging both mother and daughter onto the road.

Death on stretcher

Anushka was rushed to ESIC Hospital with internal injuries, while her mother suffered a head wound. According to the family, Anushka was left unattended on a stretcher for nearly three hours, despite complaining of breathing issues and asking for oxygen. The hospital staff allegedly failed to recognise the severity of her condition due to a lack of visible bleeding. By the time the family tried to move her to a private hospital, her condition had deteriorated—paralysis set in, and she died shortly after.

A dream cut short

Her father, shattered by the loss, said that Anushka was full of ambition. "She dreamt of becoming a civil servant," he said, holding back tears. Meanwhile, her mother Bharti remains inconsolable, swinging between moments of fainting and calling out her daughter's name.

Six booked for molesting minor girl, thrashing brother

Our Staff Reporter

INDORE

A group of six miscreants allegedly molested a 17-year-old girl and thrashed her brother, who came to her rescue. The incident occurred late on Monday night in Sanchar Nagar under Kanadiya police station limits when the girl was waiting for an auto-rickshaw with her brother and friend to go home.

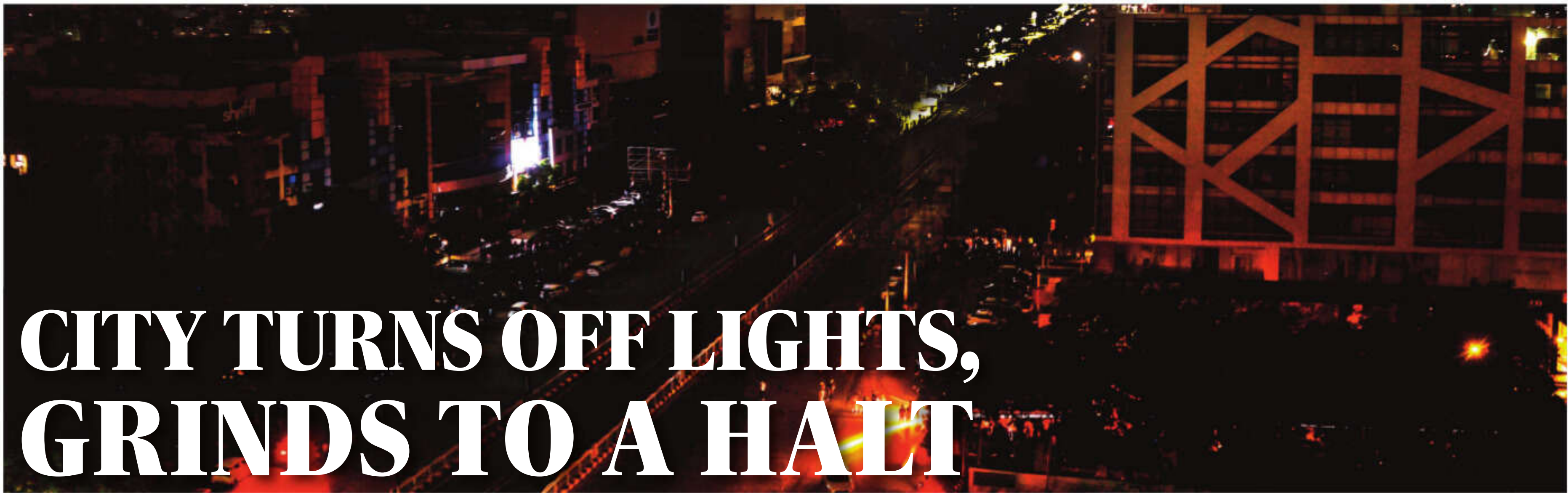
The police registered a case against the accused under sections 74, 118(1), 115(2), 296, 351(2), 3(5) of BNS and 7/8 of POCSO Act on the complaint of the victim.

According to the police, the girl told police that she, along with her brother and friend, had gone to her sister's birthday party. While returning home from there, they were waiting for an auto-rickshaw in Sanchar Nagar near JMB Restaurant,

when the accused Rishi, along with his friends Sachin Sharma, Moksh and Nanu came in on bikes and started talking to her with the intention of teasing her.

Nanu held her hand with bad intentions and when her brother objected, the accused thrashed him. Later, their two accomplices Kanha and Sahil, also came and started assaulting him and threatened him with dire consequences.

INDO-PAK TENSION | MHA ORDERS FOLLOWED, MOCK DRILLS HELD IN 3 PHASES



CITY TURNS OFF LIGHTS, GRINDS TO A HALT FOR 12 MINUTES

Drill duration
240 min

Blackout
12 min

Drill areas
3

Total force
used
1000+

People
rescued
300+

Drill timings
4:00
8:00 pm

Our Staff Reporter
INDORE

Indore presented a united front on Wednesday as it religiously observed a 12-minute blackout, beginning at 7.30 pm, following the Ministry of Home Affairs orders amid escalating tensions with Pakistan.

The blackout, spanning the entire city, was a planned simulation of a wartime emergency or disaster scenario. As sirens echoed through the city at precisely 7.30 pm, all lights from households to commercial establishments, traffic signals, and streetlights were voluntarily turned off. Vehicles on roads and highways, including the bypass and ring roads, halted wherever they were, switching off their headlights and remaining stationary for 12 minutes.

Even as it exulted in the success of the armed forces' Operation Sindoor that targeted terror camps in PoK and Pakistan earlier in the day, the city plunged into

darkness at night. Streets that are usually bustling with activity fell eerily silent with residents adhering to the government's call and switching off lights.

Indore's citizens played a

THE BLACKOUT, WAS A PLANNED SIMULATION OF A WARTIME EMERGENCY OR DISASTER SCENARIO

pivotal role by voluntarily switching off lights, drawing curtains, and ensuring complete darkness within homes and businesses. Streets were submerged in darkness, simulating conditions during a potential air raid or national security emergency.

Food delivery services, as well as cab aggregators, paused operations during the blackout window. No private or commercial vehicle was allowed to move during the exercise, as part of a care-

fully coordinated lockdown of movement.

All entry points into the city, such as Kshipra Toll, Rau Circle, Tejaji Nagar, and Gandhi Nagar, followed blackout protocols. Vehicles entering Indore were instructed to stop and switch off lights.

BRTS corridors, underpasses, and city arteries were completely immobilised, following a strict communication protocol delivered by traffic and police officials.

The drill was supervised by top administrative officials and other senior authorities from disaster management, health services, fire departments, and civil defence.

This blackout was the final phase of a three-part mock drill that began earlier in the day with simulated attacks and rescue operations at the Government Dental College, Residency area, and the Boys' Hostel of the MGM Medical College. The drill included rescue efforts, medical evacuation, fire suppression, and coordination of multiple emergency services to test response efficiency.

COMPLETE BLACKOUT AT VIJAY NAGAR AND NEARBY AREAS ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT



City bus and i-bus halt on road during blackout ALL PICS BY PINTU NAMDEV AND ANAND SHIVRE



People park vehicles on the side of roads during blackout

Warning sirens installed at 12 locations

Warning signals that can be sounded in the same tone simultaneously across the city have been installed at 12 BSNL telephone exchanges. The sirens have been installed on the towers at Nehru Park, Transport Nagar, Meghdoot Park, Dhanvantari Nagar, Chhawani, Scheme No. 94, Krishi Upaj Mandi, Tilak Path, Akashwani, Rau, Mangalia, and Gandhi Nagar telephone exchanges. Before Wednesday's blackout, generators were connected to the sirens. Pankaj Upadhyay, general manager of BSNL, Indore Business area, got the work done under his supervision.



A student being rescued using a ladder from a 'damaged' building

Mock drills successful: Collector

Collector Asheesh Singh said that the mock drills were conducted successfully and effectively. Active participation of all the stakeholders was ensured in the mock drills, so that loss of life and property could be minimised in case of any disaster. Disaster management was tested in real time in the mock drills. Expressing his gratitude, Singh praised everyone involved for the successful conduct of the mock drill.

Key agencies coordinate, hold search-and-rescue ops

Aiming to assess the city's preparedness for emergency situations, a large-scale civil defence mock drill was successfully conducted on Wednesday. The drill was carried out in three phases, invol-

ving participation from the police, district administration, Indore Municipal Corporation, fire services, health department, disaster management teams, and other key agencies.

The primary goal of the drill was to evaluate the effective-

ness and coordination of various agencies during emergencies such as air raids, fires, explosions, and other crises. It also aimed to raise public awareness and offer hands-on training to citizens on how to respond in such situations. Di-

visional Commissioner Deepak Singh, Collector Asheesh Singh, Commissioner of Police Santosh Kumar Singh, and IMC Commissioner Shivam Verma oversaw all the preparation throughout the different exercises.

DRILL TESTED

- Air raid warning systems
- Communication with the Indian Air Force
- Functionality of main and shadow control rooms
- Blackout and evacuation plans
- Quick concealment measures for significant facilities
- Readiness of civil defence teams, wardens, fire and rescue units
- Depot management, supply chains, and relief operations



Firefighters douse flames on the roof of a building using long canons



Third phase

The third phase was carried out at the Boys' Hostel of the MGM Medical College, where a mock drill was conducted after the building caught fire due to an air strike and was damaged. Rescue teams from all the departments rushed to the spot, carried out search-and-rescue operations, and safely evacuated 73 people trapped. The 18 injured, who were trapped under the debris, were promptly taken to nearby hospitals.

The health department had set up temporary hospitals, and several injured people were taken to MY Hospital for treatment, thus testing the emergency medical response system.



Commandos march towards mock site to begin rescue operation



माध्यमिक शिक्षा मण्डल, मध्यप्रदेश
महत्वपूर्ण सूचना - द्वितीय परीक्षा

वर्ष 2025 की हाईस्कूल/हायर सेकेण्डरी के अनुत्तीर्ण विषयों की परीक्षा देने अथवा अंक सुधार के लिए द्वितीय परीक्षा का आयोजन

▶▶ राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति 2020 के तहत माध्यमिक शिक्षा मण्डल द्वारा अब तक आयोजित होने वाली पूरक परीक्षा के स्थान पर अनुत्तीर्ण विषयों अथवा अंक सुधारने के लिए द्वितीय परीक्षा का आयोजन किया जा रहा है।

▶▶ द्वितीय परीक्षा में सम्मिलित होने के लिए छात्र एम.पी. ऑनलाइन के कियोस्क पर अपनी मुख्य परीक्षा के परीक्षाफल के आधार पर द्वितीय परीक्षा के विषय, अनुक्रमांक (रोल नंबर) की जानकारी देकर शुल्क का नगद भुगतान कर परीक्षा आवेदन पत्र भर सकेंगे।

▶▶ द्वितीय परीक्षा में छात्र को अनुत्तीर्ण विषयों का चयन अनिवार्य है परन्तु उत्तीर्ण विषयों का चयन स्वैच्छिक है।

▶▶ द्वितीय परीक्षा की अंक सूची मुख्य परीक्षा की भांति जारी की जायेगी।

▶▶ मंडल द्वारा जारी अंक सूची का अधिभार सर्वमान्य है।

▶▶ वर्ष 2025 की हाईस्कूल द्वितीय परीक्षा दिनांक 17 जून 2025 से 26 जून 2025 तक एवं हायर सेकेण्डरी द्वितीय परीक्षा दिनांक 17 जून 2025 से 05 जुलाई 2025 तक प्रातः 09:00 से 12:00 बजे तक निर्धारित परीक्षा केन्द्रों पर आयोजित होगी।

▶▶ अंतिम तिथि 2024-25 की हाईस्कूल एवं हायर सेकेण्डरी द्वितीय परीक्षा के लिए एम.पी. ऑनलाइन पोर्टल के माध्यम से 07 मई 2025 से 21 मई 2025 की रात्रि 12:00 बजे तक आवेदन-पत्र भरे जा सकेंगे।

विस्तृत जानकारी एवं परीक्षा का कार्यक्रम मण्डल की वेबसाइट www.mpbse.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

म.प्र. माध्यम/119979/2025

READY FOR WAR | Basketball players hoist saffron alongside the national flag

Ujjain erupts in patriotic fervour after Op Sindoor



MP Anil Firojiya dancing on road (L), basketball players celebrate with flags (R)

FP News Service
UJJAIN

Following the overnight precision strikes by Indian Air Force on terrorist hideouts in Pakistan and PoK, waves of nationalism swept across Mahakal City on Wednesday morning. As news of the operation broke, residents of Ujjain took to streets, waving the Tricolour, distributing sweets, bursting fireworks and chanting "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Pakistan Murdabad."

From Mahakaleshwar temple to the lanes of Mohan

Nagar, patriotic fervour gripped the city. At the temple, devotees celebrated the strikes as divine justice, recalling the recent Pahalgam terror attack where tourists were targeted based on their religion. "Today, Pakistan has realised the worth of a pinch of vermilion," said one woman devotee emotionally.

BJP MP Anil Firojiya joined in the street celebrations at Bhakt Nagar, where women activists and young sports persons danced and waved saffron and national flags. "This is Modi's India. Those who dared



to wipe off the sindoor of our sisters have been shown its price," Firojiya said. At Government Kalidas Girls College, basketball players hoisted saffron alongside the national flag. Similar scenes were witnessed at Ambe Mata temple, where families distributed sweets to passersby. Celebrations spread across Gopal Mandir, where members of the World Hindu Federation India offered ladus to Lord Krishna, raised slogans in support of Indian Army, and waved national flag. Federation leaders Sanjay

Agrawal and Rohit Mittal called the strikes "just the beginning."

At Shram Shivir Koyla Phatak, labour leaders under Ujjain Mill Mazdoor Sangh-INTUC and State INTUC secretary Omprakash Singh Bhadoria condemned the brutal targeting of Indian tourists in Kashmir and praised the military's response as necessary and decisive. Meanwhile, students and faculty at the Institute of Pharmacy celebrated with crackers and cheers, naming the action "Operation Sindoor".

2 girl students commit suicide

FP News Service
UJJAIN

Two girl students, including one who failed in MPBSE's class 10 examinations, ended their lives in separate incidents during the past 24 hours.

Priyanka (16) daughter of Mohanlal resident of Karondiya, Shankarpur committed suicide by jumping into a well on Tuesday afternoon. Her brother Roshan said that she had failed to clear the exam twice and jumped into a 50-foot deep well, probably out of frustration. Komal, her younger sister, saw Priyanka jumping into the well and informed the family. Roshan said villagers tried to take Priyanka out of the well but failed. It took police divers five hours to bring out the body. Roshan said their father is a farmer, and they are 3 brothers and 6 sisters. In another case, 23-year-old Nikita daughter of Saudan Singh of Saraswati Nagar, a final year student in Sanwer Government College, consumed poison on Tuesday afternoon when everyone else was sleeping. Her father admitted her to Government Charak Hospital where she died at 8 pm.

SIT FORMED IN BICHHROD CASE

FP News Service
UJJAIN

Police shot and injured the main accused in the alleged Bichhrod 'love jihad' case during a dramatic escape attempt early Wednesday. Nineteen-year-old Farman, son of Usman Mansuri, was hit in the leg after he snatched a police rifle and opened fire while being taken to Ujjain's Charak Hospital for treatment.

Farman, arrested a day earlier by Ghattia police under the POCOA Act, molestation, and IT Act charges, claimed to be experiencing chest pain while in custody. Around 4 am, as police escorted him in a van, he complained of nausea near Nazarpur-Nipaniya culvert. When officers stopped the vehicle, Farman suddenly grabbed an INSAS rifle and fired two shots at the personnel. Sub-Inspector Karan Khawal returned fire, hitting Farman in the leg. He was rushed to Charak Hospital where doctors administered first aid and admitted him for further treatment.



SP Pradeep Sharma during his visit to Charak Hospital to assess Farman's condition FP Photo

Ujjain SP Pradeep Sharma visited the hospital, met Farman, and lauded the police team's quick response, announcing a ₹10,000 reward. He later confirmed the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the case in detail.

Police allege that Farman and six of his associates were involved in a network that targeted young women by creating and circulating doctored photos and videos on social media. The SIT will investigate how the group obtained personal details of victims, the extent of their activities and whether a larger network was

involved. Farman, described by SP Sharma as a "cunning repeat offender," is even accused of targeting his own niece. The scandal surfaced when locals discovered obscene content on his phone, leading to his arrest. During interrogation, he named six associates: Zubair, Iqar, Raja Rangrez, Junaid, Faiz and Ujer Pathan—all from Bichhrod.

The accused reportedly exploited an RTO camp database to extract phone numbers of girl students, using the details to contact and harass them, and even shared them with others. So far, four FIRs have been lodged in the case.

UMC GENERAL MEETING

Congress set to corner Mayor over critical issues

FP News Service
UJJAIN

A day before the general meeting of the Ujjain Municipal Corporation (UMC), Congress corporators held a meeting on Wednesday where they decided to corner Mayor Mukesh Tatwal with questions of public importance. Leader of Opposition Ravi Rai took it upon himself to seek answers from Rai.

Rai said that during the Question Hour, he will ask the Mayor as to who imposed a ban on construction at a distance of 500 mt from the Mahakaleshwar Temple in all four directions. After a discussion in the Corporation Council, the said proposal was sent to the MIC, so what was the opinion of the advocate regarding the permission?

The Supreme Court has banned encroachment within 500 mt of the temple, but there was no court case regarding construction and granting building permission, he said. He pointed out that the Temple Committee, the Ujjain Development Authority, had undertaken construction. Smart City and Heritage Hotel have also been built, yet permission for construction is closed to the citizens. And Rai is set to ask why.

The LoP also plans to speak

about the work order for the underground sewerage line given to Tata Company, which is working on the sewerage project work in the city limits. He would be asking the time for completion of the work, its total cost, and its current status. Some other questions on his mind are: Did Tata have experience in undertaking such work? In how many wards has the sewer line been started? How many notices have been issued to Tata for violating the conditions, and how much penalty has been imposed? Under whose direction is Tata working, and when was the deadline extended last? Is the work currently being carried out within the extension period?

In Thursday's meeting, other issues to be brought up would be increasing medical allowance of UMC pensioners; awarding contract for vehicle parking fee collection; auctioning of 15-year-old and unusable vehicles owned by the UMC; increasing rates keeping in view the actual expenditure incurred in issuing birth/death certificates; providing TDR benefits to the people affected by road widening; renaming Nijatpura as Shri Maharana Nagar; collecting garbage from houses within the UMC limits and sending it to the transfer station, and processing plant in Gondia.

Cyber awareness drive in schools to curb online love jihad traps

FP News Service
UJJAIN

In response to a rise in cyber-crime and alleged "love jihad" incidents, Ujjain Police on Wednesday launched a comprehensive cyber security awareness campaign targeting students across schools, colleges and coaching institutes. The initiative aims to educate youth on the safe and responsible use of social media and digital platforms.

During sessions held at various institutions, police officers urged students to avoid accepting friend requests from strangers online and not to share personal information—such as home addresses, mobile numbers, or bank details—with unknown persons. They also warned against sending personal photos or videos, which could be misused for blackmail or exploitation.

Officers advised students to immediately report any case of online harassment, blackmail, or inappropriate behaviour to the nearest police station or the district's cyber



Police officers address students on mobile safety and cyber precautions FP Photo

cell. The emphasis was on early reporting to prevent further harm.

Give info, get reward SP Pradeep Sharma said that any information provided about individuals involved in blackmail, molestation, or online exploitation—especially those luring girls through fake romantic relationships—would be treated with strict confidentiality. The police will reward such informants with

₹10,000 and initiate prompt action against the culprits.

He also urged parents to monitor their children's online activities, maintain open communication, and report any suspicious behaviour. "If parents feel their child is falling into a digital trap, they must immediately contact the police or cyber helpline," Sharma said. The helpline numbers are 75876-24914 and 70491-19001

Cheated of Rs 41 L for BMW, Gwalior businessman files complaint

FP News Service
UJJAIN

Two persons, including a trader from the medicine market, allegedly cheated a Gwalior-based businessman of Rs 41 lakh in a BMW car deal. The complaint has been lodged at the Madhav Nagar police station.

The complainant, 29-year-old Yash Sadana, son of Subhash Sadana of Jangipura, Dabra (district Gwalior), said he wanted to buy a BMW car, for which he contacted some brokers in Indore. Through them, on December 14, 2024, he met Yash Purusharthi, son

of Ashok Purusharthi, a resident of Musaddipura, outside a sweet shop on Dewas Road. He was also introduced to Yash Agrawal, who is in the battery business.

The accused allegedly made a deal for a BMW X01 (MP 13 ZL 8907). Purusharthi allegedly said that the car was financed, and that had to be settled. He allegedly asked Sadana to make the payment to get the NOC from him. Sadana allegedly paid Rs 41.41 lakh through a cheque. Two days later, however, when he asked for the NOC, Purusharthi made excuses and has allegedly not done so to date.

127 applicants clear initial round at employment fair

UJJAIN: A district-level Yuva Sangam employment/self-employment and apprenticeship fair was organised by the district employment office at the Government ITI here on Wednesday.

In the fair, various private sector employers conducted interviews for the posts of HR accountant, MIS sales marketing executive, machine

worker, operator, insurance advisor, supervisor, etc.

In all 243 youths participated in the fair and 127 applicants were initially selected. Along with this, 116 applicants were counselled by the district employment office and given career guidance and advice. Along with it, 20 youths were selected for apprenticeship through ITI, Ujjain.

mhow/dewas

Mock drill simulating bombing with civilian casualties held

FP News Service
MHOW

To test preparedness of emergency services and raise public awareness, a large-scale mock drill simulating a bombing and blackout scenario was conducted in Mhow on Tuesday evening. The coordinated exercise involved multiple agencies, including police, local administration, fire brigade, and the cantonment board.

The drill began around 5 pm near Malwa Complex at Dreamland Square, one of the busiest areas in the town. As part of the simulation, a loud explosion was staged in a building directly opposite the complex. The sound of the mock blast was followed by swift action from emergency response teams. Within minutes, fire brigades, ambulances, police personnel, doctors, and rescue workers arrived at the scene.

The simulation depicted a situation where enemy forces attacked the town, causing casualties among civilians.

"Victims" covered in artificial blood were rescued from the building and quickly transported to nearby hospitals by ambulance. The drill lasted approximately 20 to 25

minutes and aimed to assess how effectively the emergency teams could respond to such a crisis.

Senior officers present

IG Nimish Agrawal, superintendent of police (Rural) Hitika Vasal, additional superintendent of police Rupesh Dwivedi were present to monitor the proceedings and evaluate the coordination between different departments.

What made the event more impactful was the enthusiastic involvement of the local citizens. A sizeable crowd gathered to observe the drill, and many actively participated by cooperating with the authorities. Patriotic chants of "Jai Hind" echoed throughout the area, showcasing the community's spirit and unity.

Later in the evening, at precisely 7:30 pm, entire town of Mhow, along with nearby rural areas, observed a symbolic blackout. Residents voluntarily turned off all lights in their homes and business establishments for 12 minutes. The blackout was intended to simulate power cuts that may occur during wartime or emergencies, as well as to encourage preparedness among public.

Collector imposes restrictive orders across district

FP News Service
DEWAS

Collector and district magistrate Rituraj Singh has invoked powers under Section 163(1)(2) of the Indian Civil Protection Code 2023 and issued a blanket prohibitory order effective immediately across district for two months to ensure public safety, protect lives and property and maintain peace and order.

According to the order, individuals, groups, or organisations are prohibited from carrying or displaying any kind of weapons, firearms,



hockey sticks, rods, or sharp objects in public places. No public gatherings, processions, rallies, protests, or events can be organised without permission from a competent authority.

The use of DJs or sound amplifying devices is restricted without official approval and all citizens must comply with the MP Noise Control Act 1985 and related central noise pollution rules. Carrying flammable substances such as petrol,

kerosene, or acid during public events is strictly banned.

Unauthorised tent or erection is prohibited and no group may obstruct traffic or restrict public movement. The order also forbids objectionable social media content that could incite communal or public unrest. Government officials on duty are exempt from the directive. Violations will attract penal action under Section 223 of the Indian Judicial Code 2023.

7 Guides of Manpur Navodaya Vidyalaya receive state awards



FP News Service
MHOW

Seven Guides from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Manpur, received state awards at a training and inspection camp. The camp, attended by 245 Scouts and Guides from 21 JNVs in Madhya Pradesh, was inaugurated by MP Rodmal Nagar.

Kirtiyusha Tiwari, Dangi Bhoomika Chauhan, Khushi Khatri, Radhika Baruah, Vishakhia Mandloi, and two

other Guides also received the award.

MP Rodmal Nagar emphasised the importance of trees, water, and oxygen in life. He encouraged each Scout and Guide to plant a tree in their mother's name. 117 scouts and 128 guides of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya participated. Camp was conducted by Manorama Tomar. Doctor Renu Upadhyay, Sunita Katre, camp director R S Yadav were present.

Residents oppose septic tank in garden

FP News Service
MHOW

Residents of Vikram Nagar Colony protested against construction of a septic tank in the colony's garden, citing concerns about water pollution and destruction of a children's play area.

They fear that the tank would contaminate nearby borewells with sewage water.

Residents demanded that authorities immediately halt the construction. According to government rules, the colony management should install an



STP (Sewage Treatment Plant) instead of building a septic tank in the garden. Residents, including Sachin Suryavanshi, submitted a memorandum to authorities, urging them to intervene.

Diya Nagar secures 93.4% marks

Dewas: Diya Nagar, a student of City Convent School, Dewas, has secured 93.4% marks in Class XII and topping the school. She also ranked third in the district, earning a place among the district toppers. Her remarkable achievement has brought pride to the entire school community. This year, the school's Class XII results were commendable, with 45 students passing in the first division. The school management extended congratulations to Diya for her outstanding performance and wished her a bright future.

PANCHANG 8.5.2025 (UTTARAYAN)

Saka 1947	Samvat 2082
Month : Vaisakh Shukla 11 Thursday 12.30 PM	
Nakshatra : Uttara 9.06 P.M. then Hest	
Yoga : Hansa 1.57 A.M. then Vajra	
Karan : Bay 1.42 A.M. then Kalady	
Moon : Kangra	
JUP. HER 2	VEN. SAT. RAHU. NEF 12
3	11
4 MARS	PLU 10
5	9
6 NETU MOON	7
8	
9	
FREE PRESS CLASSIFIED	
RUNNING CLASSIFIED	
DISPLAY CLASSIFIED	7 DAY 500/-
50/- SQ.CM. B/W.	15 DAY 1000/-
75/- SQ.CM. (MINIMUM 1000 WORDS)	30 DAY 1500/-
FREE PRESS CALL-9425082195	

STRIKE | With plates in hand, employees protest outside VC's residence

Headache for DAVV as 2 more employee assns raise demands

Our Staff Reporter
INDORE

While members of Self-Finance Non-Teaching Employees Association are already on indefinite strike over non-fulfilment of their 14-point charter of demands, two more associations on Wednesday put forth their demands before DAVV authorities, with one of them also threatening to go on strike.

A delegation of Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya Employee (Non-Teaching) Association led by president Chain Singh Yadav and handed over a demand letter to vice chancellor Prof Rakesh Singhai and incharge registrar Prajwal Khare on Wednesday.

The letter carried a 21-point charter of demands with a threat that association members would go on strike if their demands were not met.



Striking self-finance employees protest outside the VC's bungalow on Wednesday

After that, a delegation of Bharatiya Majdoor Sangh, of which those self-finance employees are members who were not regularised in 2018,

led by president Mahesh Verma submitted a letter requesting their regularisation from 2018. The letter states that contractual employees,

who were not given permanent posting in 2018, should be regularised from the same year as per government guidelines.

Meanwhile, the indefinite strike by self-finance employees continued on Wednesday as well, even after the university authorities sent feelers that most of their demands would be met. The striking employees even reached outside the VC's house beating plates.

Citing the plight of hourly based staffers, the striking employees claimed that they were not given salaries for the past three months. In mark of protest, they demanded food from the VC's residence.

When the employees learnt that the VC was returning to his residence for lunch, the employees arranged food packets on their own and sent one packet to the VC, while he was having lunch at his EMRC-based office.

Police ensured that the striking employees do not enter the VC bungalow's premises.

Two friends killed after MUV hits bike

Our Staff Reporter
INDORE

Two friends were killed after a speeding MUV hit their two-wheeler in Gandhi Nagar police station area late on Tuesday night. The incident occurred around 10:30 pm near Rijlay Phata when they were returning home in Pithampur after visiting a temple in the city. The accident was reportedly so severe that their motorcycle was found shattered into three pieces. According to the police, the deceased were identified as Virendra Ahirwar and his friend Pravesh Tarwar, residents of Pithampur. Passersby found their bodies lying on the roadside alongside their badly damaged motorcycle. Family members said that Virendra worked at a canteen in the Indorama area and had two younger brothers. Pravesh was employed at a private company. Virendra's mother Madhu told police that he had left home Tuesday afternoon, saying he was going to visit a temple. The family was informed about the accident when police called his sister's number in Bhopal, who then informed his mother.

Youth ends life over digital arrest threat

Cyber fraudster threatened to implicate him falsely in Pahalgam terror case

Our Staff Reporter
INDORE

A 27-year-old youth committed suicide in Hira Nagar police station area on Tuesday after allegedly being mentally tortured by a cyber fraudster who threatened to implicate him falsely in the Pahalgam terrorist attack. The fraudster reportedly digitally arrested him and demanded money, claiming that if the payment wasn't made, he would be falsely linked to a terror mission.

The deceased was identified as Anurag Gajbhiye, a resident of Veena Nagar. According to the family members, he had been actively searching for jobs online and spent most of his time browsing the internet for employment opportunities.

They said he began behaving unusually and often spoke about being offered a secret agent job by the Indian government, where he was allegedly instructed to conceal his identity.

Anurag had reportedly told relatives that someone online had tricked him and taken his account details and digital signature.



natures. When Anurag couldn't pay the money demanded, the fraudster threatened to falsely frame him in the Pahalgam terror incident.

Under extreme psychological pressure, Anurag began fearing for his life, even expressing paranoia that passing cars outside his house could be surveillance vehicles and someone could kill him. The constant fear and manipulation led him to take the extreme step.

Meeting of litigation coordination committee held

Our Staff Reporter
INDORE

The meeting of Litigation coordination committee of all the districts of Indore division was held on Wednesday.

Divisional commissioner Deepak Singh presided over the meeting. Joint collector Shaili Kanas, deputy commissioner revenue Sapna Lavanshi, deputy collectors Vinod Rathore, Poorva Mandloi, Saloni Agarwal, Sudeep Meena from IDA, Jhabua deputy collector Harshvardhan Vishwakarma, Burhanpur deputy collector Rajesh Patidar and other

concerned officers were present in the meeting.

Divisional commissioner Singh reviewed various cases pending of various departments in the District Court and High Court and gave necessary instructions to the concerned officers. He reviews all cases related to contempt and gave instructions to file an appeal and present their side in the District and High Court in the interest of the government, do a detailed review of all the cases related to contempt. Officials were also asked to put forward their views and suggestions in the meeting.

Woman receives vulgar WhatsApp messages; Admins among 3 booked

Indore: A woman received vulgar and threatening messages from an individual, leading to a case being registered against the accused and the WhatsApp group admins. According to the police, the woman told police that Dheeraj Sharma sent her vulgar messages on a WhatsApp group and threatened to violate her modesty. Later, the messages were not deleted by the group admins Suraj Joshi and Mukesh Gaur. The police registered a case against the three under sections 79, 351(3), 3(5) of the BNS and section 67 of IT Act.

30% drop in power complaints from areas with underground cables

Our Staff Reporter
INDORE

Madhya Pradesh West Zone Electricity Distribution Company claimed that complaints related to fuse-off calls have dropped by an average of 30 per cent in areas where underground cables have been installed. These areas include Sirpur Zone, Malwa Mill Zone, Khajrana Zone and Sukhiya Zone.

Areas with newly laid underground electricity cables under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in the city reported

fewer power supply disruptions compared to other regions, says an official press note from West Discom.

The underground cabling project has been implemented across 20 kilometres in select areas of the city, reducing power interruptions and electrical faults.

According to North Division executive engineer Vinay Pratap Singh, the initiative has led to noticeable improvements in areas such as Lala Ka Bagicha and Malwa Mill, where underground cables have been installed for low-tension electricity distribution from 22

transformers. "Not only the underground cables have minimised power losses but also curbed disruptions caused by external factors like tree branches, birds, kites and sheets," Singh said.

Similarly, in Chandan Nagar area, where underground cables have been laid for consumers connected to eight transformers, incidents of power theft have decreased while the number of faults has become negligible. Khajrana is another area that has seen a marked improvement in power supply quality, with a significant reduction in interruptions.

Cyber safety workshop empowers educators



Our Staff Reporter
INDORE

A workshop on cybersecurity was organised under the faculty development programme at Army Public School, Mhow focusing on equipping teachers with tools to protect students from online threats.

National cyber security expert Professor Gourav Rawal led the session, emphasising safe internet practices and the legal framework under IT Act, 2008. The session began with a warm welcome from Principal Gargi Vidyarthi and Vice Principal SK Chaudhary.

Professor Rawal educated teachers on increasing risks associated with online gam-

ing, cyberbullying, data theft and inappropriate content. He shared ten key tips to help parents safeguard their children, such as using parental controls, setting screen-time limits and disabling location sharing. He also highlighted Section 66-E of the Information Technology Act and demonstrated how to strengthen privacy settings across social media platforms. Teachers were advised to use strong passwords and be alert to spying tools like Key-Logger.

The session concluded with words of appreciation from Dr Pramod Srivastava, who thanked everyone for their active involvement in making the workshop a success.

Moot court competition inspires budding lawyers



Our Staff Reporter
INDORE

A moot court competition was held at Acropolis Institute of Law to give students hands-on experience with court procedures. High Court judge Justice Subodh Abhyankar, the chief guest, highlighted the need for young advocates to respect seniors and continuously learn from their experience. He emphasised the importance of legal knowledge, internships and staying updated.

Professor Dr Geetanjali Chandra explained that moot courts help develop confidence and debating skills.

Teams from top institutes, including Bolton University, Punjab University and MIT Pune, participated. MIT Pune won first prize, the best speaker went to Vaidehi Pati, the best researcher went to Jitaksh Kachhwaha, and the best memorial was given to Punjab University.

The event was attended by legal experts, faculty and Acropolis group members.

Our Staff Reporter
INDORE

After a successful survey in Indore, the two-member World Bank delegation — Bénédicte de la Brière and Sumita Chopra — visited Ujjain on Wednesday to assess the beggar-free initiative in the temple town. Known for its religious significance and heavy footfall, Ujjain too



showed encouraging results, with visibly reduced beggary around major temples as Ujjain is also a part of Smile Yojna.

On their return, the delegation visited the Param

Pujya Rakshak Aadinath Welfare and Education Society (PARWES) NGO. Its president Rupali Jain shared that the team conducted a deep analysis of the rehabilitation process, interacted

BEGGAR-FREE INDORE

with individuals at the centre and recorded detailed reviews. The findings from city have been compiled and will now be submitted to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The visit marks a strong validation of Madhya Pradesh's efforts, with Indore leading the way. The state now edges closer to earning recognition as India's first beggar-free region.

Arms smuggler held with 10 country-made pistols, two live cartridges

Indore: Crime branch arrested an arms smuggler with 10 country-made pistols, two live cartridges and seized his motorcycle, police said on Wednesday.

According to the police, acting on a tip-off, they arrested Hirmal Chauhan of Barwani. The police registered a case against the accused under relevant sections of Arms Act and he is being further interrogated for his source and network.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
ICICI Bank
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd Office Number 201-B, 2nd Floor, Road No. 1 Plot No-B3, WiFi IT Park, Wagle Industrial Estate, Thane (West) - 400604
The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) R/w Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on the underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security with respect to a Housing Loan facility granted, pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in the exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s) (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN)	Description of Property/ Date of possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (₹)	Name of Branch
1.	Amit Kadam & Rajendra Kadam & Usha Kadam - (Old DHFL Lan No - 800013260 & New ICICI Lan No-QZIND00005017554)	North Port of Plot No.383, Suryadev Nagar, Sector B, Madhya Pradesh, Indore-452002/ May 05, 2025	November 27, 2024 Rs. 13,95,519.72/-	Indore

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/ guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Date : May 08, 2025, Place : Indore
Authorized Officer, ICICI Bank Limited

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र
Bank of Maharashtra
भारत वाणिज्य का अग्रदूत
विकास और प्रगति का अग्रदूत

Zonal Office: Maharashtra Sahitya Sabha,
688 M.G. Road, Indore - Ph. No. 0731-2433687
E-mail: dzmindore@mahabank.co.in
Head Office: Lokmangal, 1501, Shivajinagar, Pune-5

POSSESSION NOTICE
RULE 8(1) FOR
IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sub-Section (12) of Section 13 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice on dates mentioned below calling upon to the following borrowers/guarantors to repay the Bank's dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The notice/s was sent by Regd. Post, Speed Post and Courier. The borrowers / guarantors having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the borrower/ guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates given in the table. The borrowers / guarantor/s in particular and the public in general, is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of Maharashtra for an amount hereinabove mentioned.

Name of the Borrower, Guarantor	Outstanding Amount	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date Possession Date	
Branch: Kanadiya Road, Indore				
1. M/s Boma Life science Pvt Ltd (Borrower), Address: 205 Prakrati Corporate, 18/2 Y N Road Indore 452001, Also At: 077, Village- Sinhasa, Sirpur, Tehsil & Dist.-Indore- 452002	4,02,95,992/- + Unapplied Interest at Contractual rates w.e.f. 31.01.2025	Property No. 1: Mortgage of all parcel and pieces of Office No. 501-A, Fifth Floor, Alankar Point, Situated at Plot No. 4, Raigarh Kothi, Indore (M.P.) Area (996.25 Sq Feet) Bounded as:- East: Open Roof, West: Office No 501-B, North: Way, South: Office No 501-D, (Owner: M/s Shreenath Agrico Pvt Ltd through Director Shri. Manoj S/o Shri Jagdish Chandra Khandelwal)	30.01.2025 06.05.2025	
2. Mr. Abhay Gupta S/o Vinod Kumar Gupta (Directorand Guarantor), Address:11, Janki Nagar N.X., Near Jankinath Nagar, Indore- 452001		Property No. 2: Mortgage of all parcel and pieces of Office No. 501-B, Fifth Floor, Alankar Point, Situated at Plot No. 4, Raigarh Kothi, Indore (M.P.) Area (996.25Sq Feet) Bounded as:- East: Office No 501-A, West: Road, North: Way, South: Office No 501-C, (Owner: M/s Shreenath Agrico Pvt Ltd through Director Shri. Manoj S/o Shri Jagdish Chandra Khandelwal)		
3. Mr. Yashpal Chaudhary S/o Bhagwat singh Choudhary Gupta (Director and Guarantor), Address: 340/17-C Mayur Nagar, Musakhedi Indore - 452001		Property No. 3: Mortgage of all parcel and pieces of Office No. 501-C, Fifth Floor, Alankar Point, Situated at Plot No. 4, Raigarh Kothi, Indore (M.P.) Area (996.25Sq Feet) Bounded as:- East: Office No 501-D, West: Road, North: Office No 501-B, South: Block No. 2, (Owner: M/s Shreenath Agrico Pvt Ltd through Director Shri. Manoj S/o Shri Jagdish Chandra Khandelwal)		
4. M/s Shreenath Agrico Pvt Ltd (Guarantor), Address: 501, Alankar Point, A.B. Road, Geeta Bhawan Square, Indore (M.P.)- 452001.	The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.			
Place: Indore, Date : 08.05.2025 <div>Authorized Officer, Bank of Maharashtra</div>				

WESTERN RAILWAY - RATLAM MANDAL
Engineering Department -E-Tendering
Notice No. W/623/5/1/NIT Dated 3/05/2025
Divisional Railway Manager/Divisional Office (Working Accounts Branch), Western Railway, Ratlam, on behalf of the President of India, invites 'Open Tender' through e-tender on website www.iraps.gov.in for the following work. Details are as follows: (1) Tender No. RTM-2025-26-37. Name of work: RTM Division-Improvement/upgrade to RPF barrack at RTM, UIN, IND at. Estimated quantity: As per tender schedule. Estimated cost: Rs. 60,97,522.81. Earnest Money: 1,22,000.00 Completion Period: 8 Months. Similar type of work: Any Civil Engineering Work. Date of upload on website: 03/05/2025 Date of opening tender: 26/05/2025. (2) e-tendering RTM-2025-26-38. RTM Renovation of Railway Higher Secondary School at. Estimated quantity: As per tender schedule. Estimated cost: Rs. 1,86,61,983.53. Earnest Money: 2,43,400.00. Work Completion Period: 5 Months. Similar type of work: Any Civil Engineering Work. Date of uploading on website: 03/05/2025. Tender opening date: 26/05/2025. (3) E-tender number RTM-2025-26-37. Name of work: RTM Supply of potable drinking water at Station, Offices, Railway Colony and other places in Railway Premises for one Year (2025-26). Estimated Quantity: As per tender schedule. Estimated Cost: Rs. 1,84,04,480.00. Earnest Money: Rs. 2,52,100.00. Completion period: 12 Months. Similar type of work: Any Civil Engineering Work. Date of uploading on website: 03/05/2025. Tender opening date: 26/05/2025. (4) e-tender number RTM-25-26-48 Name of work: Ujjain Station Repair & maintenance of underground sewer line, drain, manholes, WC etc. in Railway colony, Station Building and circulating area at (For Three Years) 2025-2028. Estimated Quantity: As per tender schedule. Estimated cost: Rs. 67,81,405.38. Earnest Money: 1,35,700.00 Work Completion Period: 36 Months. Similar type of work: Any Civil Engineering Work. Date of uploading on website: 03/05/2025. Tender opening date: 26/05/2025. Detailed tender notice, bid conditions and other terms and conditions are available on website www.iraps.gov.in.
Divisional Railway Manager (W/A) Ratlam Division, (Western Railway)
V/026
facebook.com/WesternRailly

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र
Bank of Maharashtra
भारत वाणिज्य का अग्रदूत
विकास और प्रगति का अग्रदूत

Zonal Office: Maharashtra Sahitya Sabha,
688 M.G. Road, Indore - Ph. No. 0731-2433687
E-mail: dzmindore@mahabank.co.in
Head Office: Lokmangal, 1501, Shivajinagar, Pune-5

POSSESSION NOTICE
RULE 8(1) FOR
IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sub-Section (12) of Section 13 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice on dates mentioned below calling upon to the following borrowers/guarantors to repay the Bank's dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The notice/s was sent by Regd. Post, Speed Post and Courier. The borrowers / guarantors having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the borrower/ guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates given in the table. The borrowers / guarantor/s in particular and the public in general, is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of Maharashtra for an amount hereinabove mentioned.

Name of the Borrower, Guarantor	Outstanding Amount	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date Possession Date	
Branch: Kanadiya Road, Indore				
1. M/s Boma Life science Pvt Ltd (Borrower), Address: 205 Prakrati Corporate, 18/2 Y N Road Indore 452001, Also At: 077, Village- Sinhasa, Sirpur, Tehsil & Dist.-Indore- 452002	4,02,95,992/- + Unapplied Interest at Contractual rates w.e.f. 31.01.2025	Property No. 1: Mortgage of all parcel and pieces of Office No. 501-A, Fifth Floor, Alankar Point, Situated at Plot No. 4, Raigarh Kothi, Indore (M.P.) Area (996.25 Sq Feet) Bounded as:- East: Open Roof, West: Office No 501-B, North: Way, South: Office No 501-D, (Owner: M/s Shreenath Agrico Pvt Ltd through Director Shri. Manoj S/o Shri Jagdish Chandra Khandelwal)	30.01.2025 06.05.2025	
2. Mr. Abhay Gupta S/o Vinod Kumar Gupta (Directorand Guarantor), Address:11, Janki Nagar N.X., Near Jankinath Nagar, Indore- 452001		Property No. 2: Mortgage of all parcel and pieces of Office No. 501-B, Fifth Floor, Alankar Point, Situated at Plot No. 4, Raigarh Kothi, Indore (M.P.) Area (996.25Sq Feet) Bounded as:- East: Office No 501-A, West: Road, North: Way, South: Office No 501-C, (Owner: M/s Shreenath Agrico Pvt Ltd through Director Shri. Manoj S/o Shri Jagdish Chandra Khandelwal)		
3. Mr. Yashpal Chaudhary S/o Bhagwat singh Choudhary Gupta (Director and Guarantor), Address: 340/17-C Mayur Nagar, Musakhedi Indore - 452001		Property No. 3: Mortgage of all parcel and pieces of Office No. 501-C, Fifth Floor, Alankar Point, Situated at Plot No. 4, Raigarh Kothi, Indore (M.P.) Area (996.25Sq Feet) Bounded as:- East: Office No 501-D, West: Road, North: Office No 501-B, South: Block No. 2, (Owner: M/s Shreenath Agrico Pvt Ltd through Director Shri. Manoj S/o Shri Jagdish Chandra Khandelwal)		
4. M/s Shreenath Agrico Pvt Ltd (Guarantor), Address: 501, Alankar Point, A.B. Road, Geeta Bhawan Square, Indore (M.P.)- 452001.	The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.			
Place: Indore, Date : 08.05.2025 <div>Authorized Officer, Bank of Maharashtra</div>				

FROM NO.
[Sec. Regulation 33 (2)]
By Regd. A/D, Dasti falling Which by Publication,
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL JABALPUR
3rd Floor, Sanchar Vikas Bhawan (BSNL Building), Residency Road, Near Head Post Office, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur - 482001
NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION UNDER RULE 53 OF THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993
OAEX/338/2012
24-04-2025

ARCIL
VERSUS
NEW TECH PIPE

To,
1. M/s. New Tech Pipes Ltd., Regd. Office at 2, Mahavir Nagar, Near Padmaja, School, Devas (M.P.) and Works at F/21-23, SEZ, Pithampur, Dhar (M.P.).
2. Shri Dinesh Sharma, S/o. Shri Hirajal Sharma, Resident of 2nd Mahavir Nagar, Near Padmaja, School, Devas (M.P.).
3. Smt. Nisha Sharma, W/o. Shri Dinesh Sharma, Resident of 2nd Mahavir Nagar, Near Padmaja, School, Devas (M.P.).
4. Shri Narayan Prasad Tekriwal, S/o. Late Shir L. R. Tekriwal, Resident of 21, Indravati Colony, Raipur (C.G.).
5. M/s. New Tech Abrasives Ltd., Regd. Office at D/59-61, SEZ, Pithampur, Dhar (M.P.).
6. M/s. Krishna Food & Beverages Ltd., Regd. Office at 2nd Mahavir Nagar, Near Padmaja, School, Devas (M.P.).
Whereas you was the order by the Presiding Officer of DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL JABALPUR who had issued the Recovery Certificate dated 02-11-2012 in 305/2011 to pay to the Applicant Bank(s) / Financial Institution (s) Name of applicant, the sum of **Rs. 31,20,40,389.54p** (i.e. Rs. 10,52,99,970.54p CC(H) account and Rs. 20,67,40,419/- term loan account) with interest at 15% p.a. (0.25% above SBAR) with monthly rests from 04.10.2011 till full realisation and whereas the said has not been paid, the undersigned has ordered the sale of undermentioned immovable / Immovable property.
2. You are hereby informed that the 04-06-2025 at 10.30 A.M. has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and settling the terms thereof. You are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attached to the said properties or any portion thereof.
Specification of property
1. Industrial Land and Building on Plot No. 59, 60 and 61, at SEZ, Industrial Area, Pithampur, Ward No. 20, Tehsil & District - Dhar (M.P.); area admeasuring 3000 sq.mtr.; property in the name of M/s New Tech Abrasives Ltd, through director - Shri Dinesh s/o late Shri Hirajal Sharma.
2. Industrial Land and Building on Plot No. F-21, 22 and 23 at SEZ, Industrial Area, Pithampur, Ward No. 20, Tehsil & District - Dhar (M.P.); area admeasuring 10000 sq.mtr.; property in the name of M/s New Tech Pipes Ltd, through Director: Shri Dinesh s/o late Shri Hirajal Sharma.
3. Plant and Machinery of Abrasive Manufacturing Units situated at Plot No. 59, 60 and 61, at SEZ, Industrial Area, Pithampur, Ward No. 20, Tehsil & District - Dhar (M.P.) property in the name of M/s New Tech Abrasives Ltd.
4. Plant and Machinery of Pipes Manufacturing Units situated at Plot No. F-21, 22 and 23 at SEZ, Industrial Area, Pithampur, Ward No. 20, Tehsil & District - Dhar (M.P.); property in the name of M/s New Tech Pipes Ltd.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 24-04-2025.

SEAL
Sd/-
(Priti Desai)
Recovery Officer-II
Debt Recovery Tribunal

Briefs

AGRA Police personnel suspended

Four police personnel in Muzaffarnagar were suspended for allegedly coercing a temple Mahant to give large sums of money. The Mahant had filed a complaint with SSP Abhishek Singh, providing call recordings as evidence. A preliminary inquiry was ordered, and further action will be taken against guilty officers. Mahant Sukhram of the Nath sect's Shiva temple in Harsauli filed a complaint on Sunday with SSP Abhishek Singh, prompting an investigation.

PRAYGRAJ UP board penalize absent teachers

The Uttar Pradesh Secondary Education Board is investigating around 30,000-35,000 teachers who skipped evaluation duties despite serving as room invigilators during exams. The board will take strict action against those found guilty, including possible registration of criminal cases. Approximately 1,48,667 teachers were appointed as evaluators for the evaluation of about 2.84 crore answer sheets across 261 centres.

AGRA DRDO develops parachutes

The Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE) in Agra has developed a parachute system for the Gaganyaan programme's uncrewed mission. The system comprises 10 parachutes designed for sequential deployment to ensure the safe return of the astronaut-carrying capsule. The parachutes have cleared sub-level testing and will be used for the mission.

KAUSHAMBI Jail sets up open-air gym

Kaushambi district jail has launched an open-air gym to promote physical health and well-being among its over 800 inmates and jail staff. The initiative is part of a state government project to set up open gyms in all 75 jails across Uttar Pradesh. Over 800 inmates lodged at the Kaushambi district jail will benefit from yoga, physical training, skill development, literacy, and other activities.

PILIBHIT Man kills injured leopardess

Wildlife activists have raised concerns over the delay in action against a man who allegedly assaulted an injured leopardess with an axe in Pilibhit. Despite video evidence, activists accuse the forest department of inaction and allege the accused is being protected. They accused the Pilibhit forest division of inaction and wrote to UP's principal chief conservator of forest (Wildlife), Anuradha Vemuri, while also filing complaints via the CM's grievance portal.

SHAHJAHANPUR 6-year-old raped at wedding

A six-year-old girl was allegedly raped by an unidentified person during a wedding ceremony in Shahjahanpur district. The girl was found covered in blood after going missing during the event. Police have registered a case and formed teams to identify and arrest the accused.

STF RETALIATION | City witnesses patriotic fervour following India's POK airstrike Operation sindoor: “Ye Hai Naya Bharat, Ghar Mein Ghuske Marega”

Hasan Zaidi LUCKNOW

Following the Indian Air Force's targeted airstrike in Pakistan occupied Kashmir under Operation Sindoor, Lucknow erupted in spontaneous celebrations, alongside state organized emergency preparedness drills. The airstrike, seen as a response to the Pahalgam terror attack, triggered widespread patriotic displays and mock readiness exercises across the city.

Residents took to the streets waving the tricolour, chanting slogans such as “Indian Army Zindabad.” At prominent spots like Aminabad, Chowk, and the 1090 crossing, traders and citizens distributed sweets and raised slogans in support of the armed forces. Organizations such as the Adarsh Vyapar Mandal and Hindu outfits led solidarity marches, displaying banners like “Ye Naya Bharat Hai Ghar Mein Ghuske Marega.”

Amid celebrations, civil defence teams conducted coordinated mock drills to simulate



air raid scenarios. Sirens sounded throughout the police line precincts, initiating black-out rehearsals. Civilians, including schoolchildren, were instructed to lie on the ground and cover their ears in

response to simulated bombings. Emergency protocols included firefighting demos and triage for mock casualties, with ambulance evacuations enacted in real-time. Muslim religious leaders welcomed the

strike. Maulana Khalid Rasheed Firangi Mahali and Maulana Yasooob Abbas praised the operation, calling it a fitting response to terrorism. “The whole world was watching; India responded decisively,”

said Abbas. Mock drills were also held at Darul Uloom Firangi and Lucknow University, where NCC cadets and students learned wartime safety procedures. At the Charbagh railway station, high

Red alert in UP after operation sindoor

A red alert has been declared across Uttar Pradesh following Operation Sindoor, in which Indian forces struck terror camps in Pakistan and PoK. In view of potential retaliatory threats, all UP Police field units have been ordered to intensify surveillance and coordinate with defence forces. Security has been tightened around key infrastructure, religious sites, and public gatherings as precautionary measures. Authorities remain on high alert to prevent any untoward incident.

DGP Prashant Kumar

My entire family had full faith our forces

“I want to thank Prime Minister Modi, the ministers, and the heads of the armed forces including the Air Force and the Army Chief for avenging my husband's death in the Pahalgam terror attack.” “I and my entire family had full faith in Prime Minister Modi and our armed forces, and the way they attacked the terrorist structures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) has reinforced our faith.”

Ashanya wife of martyr Shubham Dwivedi

alert was declared, with DRM-level inspections carried out on ticket counters and platforms. Minister Kapil Dev Aggarwal echoed public sentiment, stating, “We don't provoke, but we won't tolerate provocation.” As Lucknow oscillated between

vigilance and celebration, Operation Sindoor marked both a geopolitical statement and a moment of national unity. The city's response, marked by drills and discipline reflected a new phase of civil-military synergy.

Six of family killed in Jalaun crash

UP State Bureau JALAUN

A devastating road accident on NH-27 near Girthan village in Jalaun claimed six lives early Wednesday morning. A car carrying eight members of a family from Bahraich collided head-on with an oncoming truck after breaking the road divider around 5:30 am.

The deceased include Dr. Brijesh from Motipur, his wife Preeti, son Attashay, daughters Manvi and Siddika, and sister-in-law Sangeeta. Two others Dr. Brijesh's daughter Manda and Sangeeta's husband Ankit were critically injured and referred to Kanpur after initial treatment in the district hospital. Manvi died en route to Kanpur.

“Those who touched sindoor face erasure”



UP State Bureau LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said “those who tried to touch the sindoor of India's daughters lost their bloodlines.” His remarks came while praising the military response to the recent Pahalgam terror attack during an emergency preparedness mock drill in Lucknow. Calling the Army's action “decisive,” the CM



UP State Bureau LUCKNOW

asserted that Operation Sindoor symbolised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's and the Indian Armed Forces' deep commitment to protecting women and the country's dignity. “No one will be allowed to tamper with the pride of the nation,” Yogi stated. He issued a stern warning that conspirators against Bharat Mata will face consequences. “The country comes first. Every locality, village, and city must be ready to respond when



UP State Bureau LUCKNOW

national security is threatened,” he said. Yogi also urged greater public participation in disaster and security response. “Not just NCC, Home Guards, or Scouts—every citizen must engage with security agencies and understand their responsibilities,” he added. The CM expressed gratitude to the three armed forces, PM Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and the Union Cabinet, offering condolences for those martyred in Pahalgam.



UP State Bureau LUCKNOW

Held at the Reserve Police Lines, the mock drill simulated enemy airstrikes and included coordinated responses from NDRF, SDRF, fire services, and medical teams. Citizens were taught how to shelter, treat the injured, and manage chemical threats. Minister Suresh Khanna, Home Secretary Sanjay Prasad, DGP Prashant Kumar, ADG Amitabh Yash, Commissioner Amarendra Sengar, and DM Vishakha G were among those present.

UP extends food licensing drive

UP State Bureau LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has extended its ongoing statewide food registration and licensing campaign till May 31. Led by the Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA), the drive aims to bring all food business operators, from vendors to restaurants, under legal compliance.

Launched in April following Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's directive, the campaign mandates that every food business in the state must hold a valid registration or license under the Food Safety and Standards Act. Special camps are being held in every district to facilitate documentation. Food Safety Officers are conducting outreach and spot registration to ensure broad coverage. However, the government acknowledges that despite previous campaigns, large

All UP food businesses required to register by May 31 deadline

sections of the informal food sector remain unregistered, highlighting gaps in sustained monitoring. The FSDA has warned of strict enforcement after the May 31 deadline. The campaign includes awareness drives, compliance checks, and on-ground assistance for business owners. Though the CM has emphasized zero tolerance toward non-compliance, critics argue that periodic crackdowns alone may not build long-term adherence without addressing manpower constraints and lack of digital access in rural belts. Authorities state the campaign is intended not only for regulation but also to safeguard public health through clean, accountable food practices statewide.

Knife attack over sindoor talk

UP State Bureau SHAHJAHANPUR

In a disturbing incident in Shahjahanpur's Powayan, 12-year-old Surjeet, son of Lalbahadur from Dharmgadpur Khurd, was attacked with a knife by a man who grew agitated during a conversation about India's Operation Sindoor.

The attacker, reportedly from Katra Bazaar locality, also shouted pro-Pakistan slogans in the crowded vegetable market before being caught and handed over to police by bystanders.

The man's violent reaction appears rooted in personal instability and does not reflect the sentiments of any particular community.

25 lakh new farmers to get Kisan credit cards in UP soon

UP State Bureau LUCKNOW

In a major push to boost agricultural income and make farming more profitable, the Uttar Pradesh government under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is set to expand the reach of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme. For the financial year 2025-26, the state aims to provide KCCs to 25 lakh new farmers, ensuring easier access to timely and affordable credit. The initiative builds on the success of the previous year, where over 71 lakh farmers across the state were issued Kisan Credit Cards. To meet the new target, the state has directed all Divisional Commissioners and District Magistrates to expedite the registration and distribution process.



Yogi government issues credit cards to over 71 lakh farmers in just one year

The government is prioritizing Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana beneficiaries for inclusion in the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme. With support from cooperative and commercial banks, the distribution process is being fast-tracked to ensure wider outreach. The Government of

India has also instructed all eligible farmers to be connected with KCCs to help them access crop loans and related financial services. The aim is to eliminate the need for farmers to rely on informal moneylenders by providing institutional credit at low interest rates. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has emphasized the need to transform agriculture into a profitable venture and uplift the standard of living in rural areas. The KCC scheme plays a key role in this mission by offering timely financial support to farmers and reinforcing the state's commitment to a self-reliant and prosperous agrarian economy. Under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, there has been an increase in the distribution of crop loans.

shaktirise

Minister Danish hails 'Operation Sindoor'

UP State Bureau LUCKNOW

Lucknow witnessed emotional scenes of unity and patriotism on Wednesday as students and teachers of Darul Uloom Farangi Mahal gathered at Aishbagh Eidgah to cheer the Indian Army's precision strikes under Operation Sindoor. The air resounded with slogans of “Hindustan Zindabad” and “Indian Army Zindabad,” as they waved the national flag in support of the armed forces.

The operation, carried out in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, targeted nine terrorist camps in Pakistan and PoK. According to reports, several militants were neutralized.

Uttar Pradesh targets eco-religious tourism boom

UP State Bureau LUCKNOW

The UP government is moving ahead with plans to establish the state as a key eco and religious tourism hub, with projects underway in Lakhimpur Kheri to support both nature tourism and cultural engagement. Under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership, infrastructure will be developed near Chandan Chowki and Sharda Barrage to support tent cities, water sports, eco lodges, and immersive experiences centered around the Tharu community. Two new hubs will

Eco lodges, glamping, water sports planned near Dudhwa, Sharda Barrage

cater to visitors of Dudhwa National Park and Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary. Cultural performances, homestays, and exhibitions will offer tourists deeper insight into Tharu life. The initiative is part of the state's broader tourism policy, which includes the Ramayana and Buddhist circuits and the 'One District, One Destination' scheme.

India's daughters: The strength Pakistan can never comprehend

Pankaj Srivastava LUCKNOW

In the early hours of Wednesday, what the world witnessed wasn't merely an airstrike, it was a clear declaration of India's strategic might, unwavering vision, and iron-clad resolve. But what made this operation historic was not just its execution, it was the leaders behind it. This time, India's daughters led from the front not just as participants, but as commanding architects of the mission.

Women Behind the Strike Colonel Sophia Qureshi



Colonel Sophia Qureshi



Wing Commander Vyomika Singh

A name that resonates with pride across the Indian Armed Forces. She became the first Indian woman to lead an international military exercise, commanding troops from 18 different nations during the prestig-

ious 'Force 18' drills. Today, she stands as the strategic backbone of Operation Sindoor, a mission that shook Pakistan's defense structure to its core. Her leadership, vision, and grit played a pivotal role in

Not Just an Airstrike, A Declaration of Power, Vision, and Resolve

the operation's success. Wing Commander Vyomika Singh A fearless officer in the Indian Air Force, Wing Commander Singh isn't just known for flying fighter jets she's known for leading them in complex missions with unflinching precision. Her aerial combat expertise and tactical

command turned the tide of Operation Sindoor, proving that the skies are no longer male territory they belong to every Indian who dares, especially our daughters.

India vs Pakistan: A Contrast in Mindset

In India, we entrust daughters with borders, commands, and national strategy. In Pakistan, women still struggle to access basic education, let alone enter the military. In India, a woman commands troops from 18 countries. In Pakistan, a man's silence is valued more than a woman's voice. That is the difference. One nation

This is India

- Where daughters don't just dream they achieve.
- Where they don't just march they lead.
- Where they don't just guard the borders they become the shield of the nation.

As the world watches, India's daughters are proving that strength isn't always measured in missiles and machines sometimes, it's measured in courage, competence, and commitment.

empowers its daughters. The other hides them behind curtains.

India's daughters are no longer bound by societal chains they're now breaking barriers,

commanding missions, and scripting history. This isn't just a moment of pride; it's a message to the world a country that trusts its women can never be defeated.

105.71 pts

34.80 pts

42 paise

₹1000

₹440

SENSEX 80,746.78 | NIFTY 24,414.40 | USD/INR 84.77 | GOLD 1,00,750.00 | SILVER 98,940.00

Briefs

BSE, NSE curb overseas access to websites

Amid India launching mis-
sile attacks on Pakistan
and Pakistan-occupied
Kashmir, leading stock
exchanges BSE and NSE
have taken precautionary
measures by blocking their
websites for international
users, sources said. "BSE,
being a critical market
infrastructure institution
(MII), proactively and con-
tinuously monitors risks at
domestic and international
levels for potential cyber
threats," a BSE spokesper-
son said, explaining the
rationale behind the deci-
sion.

SAT rejects Gensol plea to stay SEBI order

The Securities Appellate
Tribunal on Wednesday
rejected an appeal by
Gensol Engineering Ltd to
stay a SEBI interim order
barring it and its pro-
moters Anmol Singh Jaggi
and Puneet Singh Jaggi
over the issue of fund
diversion and governance
concerns. The bench of
the appellate tribunal
comprising Justice P.S.
Dinesh Kumar and techni-
cal member Meera
Swarup have given the
company two weeks to
reply to the SEBI on the
temporary ex-parte order
and directed the markets
regulator to give a final
order in Gensol's case
within four weeks.

UK FTA: Goyal, exporters to meet on May 8

Commerce and Industry
Minister Piyush Goyal will
meet representatives of
export promotion councils
(EPCs) here on May 8 to
discuss matters related to
the free trade agreement
with the UK, an industry
official said on
Wednesday.

RBI recognises FIMMDA as SRO

The Reserve Bank on
Wednesday said it has re-
cognised the Fixed Income
Money Market and
Derivatives Association of
India (FIMMDA) as an SRO
in financial markets regu-
lated by the central bank.
In August last year, the RBI
had issued the framework
for recognition of Self-
Regulatory Organisations
(SROs) in financial mar-
kets. The norms were
issued in view of the
potential role of SROs in
strengthening compliance
culture among their
members.

CCI issues norms to assess predatory pricing practices

Competition Commission
of India (CCI) has notified
the regulations for deter-
mining the cost of produc-
tion, a move that will help
the watchdog to more
effectively assess alleged
predatory pricing and
deep discounting prac-
tices especially in the
quick commerce and e-
commerce segments.

\$60-70/A BARREL | Upstream players' capex plans to remain intact Softening crude oil prices to reduce import bill by ₹1.8L cr

PTI
NEW DELHI

India, the world's third largest
oil importing and consuming
nation, is likely to save as much
as Rs 1.8 lakh crore on import
of crude oil and LNG if the
trend of softening interna-
tional energy rates continues,
Icra said Wednesday.

India, which meets over 85
per cent of its crude oil needs
through imports, spent USD
242.4 billion on buying crude
from overseas in the fiscal year
ended March 31, 2025. With
domestic production meeting
roughly half of the demand, it
also spent USD 15.2 billion on
import of liquefied natural gas
(LNG) in the fiscal.

Oil prices in international
markets fell to over four-year
low of USD 60.23 per barrel
earlier this week on fears of
rising global supply at a time
when demand outlook is
uncertain. Brent crude and US
West Texas Intermediate



crude, which fell to their
lowest since February 2021,
have since risen to USD 62.4 on
signs of more Europe and
China demand and less US
output. Still the rates are USD
20 per barrel lower than
March 2024 when petrol and
diesel prices were cut by Rs 2
per litre each ahead of general
elections.

"Icra expects average crude
prices for FY2026 (April 2025
to March 2026 fiscal year) to
remain in the USD 60-70 per
barrel range," the rating
agency said in a note.

Earnings of upstream companies are estimated at ₹25,000 crore for FY2026, says ICRA

growth, coupled with an
announcement by OPEC+ to
steadily withdraw their pro-
duction cuts, starting with
411,000 barrels per day addi-
tion from May 2025 and
another 411,000 bpd from June
2025, have resulted in oil prices
declining from about USD 77 a
barrel as on March 31 to about
USD 60-62.

Stating that India meets a
large portion of its domestic
crude oil requirements
through imports, Icra said in
the scenario where crude
remains in USD 60-70 a barrel
range, the profit before tax for
upstream players in FY2026 is
expected to be lower by Rs
25,000 crore.

Rupee falls 42 paise to close at 84.77



PTI
MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated 42
paise to close at 84.77 against
the US dollar on Wednesday,
as heightened cross-border
tensions following India's
military strikes against ter-
rorist camps in Pakistan and
Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir
weighed on the domestic cur-
rency.

At the interbank foreign
exchange, the domestic unit
opened at 84.65 and moved
between an intra-day high of
84.47 and a low of 84.93
against the greenback. The
unit ended the session at
84.77, registering a fall of 42
paise over its previous closing
level.

Gold rallies ₹1K to reclaim ₹1L/ 10g

PTI
NEW DELHI

Gold prices surged Rs 1,000 to
breach the crucial Rs 1 lakh
per 10 gram-mark in the
national capital on Wednesday
as escalating tensions between
India and Pakistan triggered a
safe-haven buying rush.

According to the All India
Sarafa Association, the
precious metal of 99.9 per cent
purity climbed Rs 1,000 to Rs
1,00,750 per 10 grams from
Tuesday's closing of Rs 99,750
per 10 grams.

In retaliation for the



Pahalgam terror attack, Indian
armed forces early on
Wednesday carried out mis-
sile strikes on nine terror tar-
gets in Pakistan and PoK,
including the Jaish-e-
Mohammad stronghold of
Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-
Taiba's base in Muridke.

Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per

cent purity jumped Rs 1,050 to
Rs 1,00,350 per 10 grams on
Wednesday. It had ended at Rs
99,300 per 10 grams in the pre-
vious market close.

The yellow metal had ear-
lier touched its lifetime high of
Rs 1,01,600 per 10 grams on
April 22, when it surged Rs
1,800.

In addition, silver prices also
rose Rs 440 to Rs 98,940 per
kg. The white metal had
settled at Rs 98,500 per kg on
Tuesday. In the international
markets, spot gold fell USD
62.12 or 1.8 per cent at USD
3,369.65 per ounce.

'FTA to help double garment exports to Britain in 3 yrs'

PTI
NEW DELHI

The free trade agreement
(FTA) with the UK will help
double India's ready-made
garment exports to Britain in
the next three years, AEP
said on Wednesday.

Apparel Export Promotion
Council (AEP) Chairman
Sudhir Sekhri said that against
the backdrop of demand con-
traction in major economies,

Russia-Ukraine conflict, Israel-
Hamas war, American recip-
rocal tariff and Chinese bel-
ligerence, there was uncer-
tainty and disruption impact-
ing the global trade adversely.

"This deal has come as a
boon, removing immediately
tariff disadvantage of 96 per
cent and making us competi-
tive in the UK market. Now the
Made in India ready-made gar-
ment will be cheaper on UK
shelves and we will be at par

with some of our major com-
petitors who enjoyed duty-free
access in the UK market," he
said. India is the fourth largest
supplier of garments with a 6.1
per cent share of the total
RMG import of the UK.

The exports to the UK from
India grew 7.8 per cent to USD
1.4 billion in 2024-25. "With
this deal in place, India is all
poised to double the RMG
exports to the UK in the next
three years," he said.

RBI issues framework for new norms

Informist
NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India on
Wednesday issued a frame-
work for formulation of regu-
lations, outlining the broad
principles it will follow while
making norms under various
laws and rules. "The
Framework reinforces and
demonstrates the Reserve
Bank's commitment to
enhanced transparency and
consultative approach for
issuance of Regulations," the
RBI said in a statement.

As per the framework, the
central bank will first publish
draft regulations, give at least
21 days for stakeholders and
the public to submit their com-
ments, provide a 'general state-
ment' of its response to the
comments received, and then
issue the final regulations.

Crisol report

Softer vegetable prices lower meal cost in Apr

PTI
NEW DELHI

Softer vegetable prices helped
in lowering the cost of home-
made meals in April this year,
a report said on Wednesday.

As per the "roti rice rate"
report prepared by an arm of
domestic rating agency Crisol,
the cost of a typical vegetarian
meal reduced 4 per cent year-
on-year and 1 per cent month-
on-month to Rs 26.3 in April.

The on-year fall in prices
was attributed to the sharp
decline in vegetable prices,
which included a 34 per cent



plummet in tomato, an 11 per
cent decrease in potato and a 6
per cent drop in onions.

A 19 per cent increase in
vegetable oil prices due to
higher import duties and a 6

per cent rise in LPG cylinder
prices limited the decline in
thali costs, the report said.

A non-vegetarian thali
declined by 4 per cent year-
on-year and 2 per cent month-

on-month to Rs 53.9 per plate,
it added.

Further, the report said that
the decline in the price of a
non-veg meal was influenced
by the softening of the veg-
etable prices and a dip in poul-
try prices, which was hit by
oversupply as bird flu in some
peninsular states impacted
demand.

"Going forward, wheat and
pulses prices are expected to
moderate amid strong
domestic output," said Pushan
Sharma, director of research at
Crisil Intelligence. "Edible oil
prices are also likely to soften

over the next 2-3 months as
global supplies pick up, mainly
from Argentina, Indonesia,
and Malaysia. Rice prices,
though, are expected to inch
up with a projected increase in
exports. And among veg-
etables, onion prices are likely
to be rangebound while tom-
ato prices are forecast to rise
on account of seasonality."

A vegetarian thali com-
prises roti, vegetables such as
onion, tomato, and potato,
rice, dal, curd, and salad. A
non-vegetarian thali has the
same elements except for dal,
which is replaced by chicken.

money

Indore, Thursday, May 8, 2025

US Fed holds rates steady

FPJ Business Desk
WASHINGTON / MUMBAI

The US Federal Reserve on
Wednesday held its key inter-
est rate unchanged as it waits
for the Donald Trump admin-
istration's trade policy to take
shape and sees its impact on a
sputtering economy.

Given uncertainty
sweeping the politi-
cal and economic
landscape, the
Federal Open
Market Committee
held its benchmark
overnight borrowing
rate in a range
between 4.25%-4.5%, where it
has been since December.

The post-meeting statement
noted the volatility and how it
is factoring into policy deci-
sions. "Uncertainty about the
economic outlook has
increased further," the state-
ment said. "The Committee is

attentive to the risks to both
sides of its dual mandate and
judges that the risks of higher
unemployment and higher
inflation have risen."

It added "economic activity
has continued to expand at a
solid pace" and the job market
remains "solid" while inflation
"remains somewhat
elevated." That
doesn't sound like a
Fed poised to lower
rates in the short
term. However, the
statement did not
address the tariffs,
though Chair
Jerome Powell



addressed the issue at his post-
meeting news meeting.

Stocks briefly ceded gains
after the rate announcement
but mostly recovered, with the
Dow Jones Industrial up 300
points despite some worries
over the Fed's characterisation
of the economic risks.

India to retaliate if UK's carbon tax hits exports

PTI
NEW DELHI

The India-UK free trade pact
has no provision to counter
Britain's proposed carbon tax,
but amid uncertainty and
absence of UK legislation, New
Delhi has preserved its right to
retaliate or rebalance conces-
sions, if future measures
impact domestic exports, an
official said. The UK govern-
ment in December 2023
decided to implement its
Carbon Border Adjustment
Mechanism starting 2027.

As per economic think tank
GTRI, India's exports worth
\$775 million to the UK may be
impacted due to its move to
introduce carbon tax on prod-
ucts such as iron and steel, alu-
minium, fertiliser and cement,
from 2027. The official said the
free trade pact with the UK
has no provisions to counter
CBAM, which has the poten-
tial to nullify the concessions
offered by Britain to India.

Investors chasing resilience, not dazzling short-term gains

OP SINDOOR IMPACT

FPJ News Service
MUMBAI

Intelligent investors on
Wednesday reconfirmed their
'mantra of chasing resilience',
and not dazzling short-term
returns. Indian investors have
been scrambling into havens
such as gold, and diversifying
investment portfolios by buy-
ing fundamentally strong
stocks after the markets started
witnessing massive FII outflow
from Jan-March.

During the first 3 months of
2025, FIIs have been big sellers.
Cumulatively FIIs sold equities
for nearly Rs 1.30 lakh crore
during this 3-month period.
Key indices Sensex and Nifty
settled higher on Wednesday
as India launched missile
strikes "Operation Sindoor" on
terrorist hideouts in Pakistan
and POK. The 30-share BSE



Sensex closed 105.71 pts higher
at 80,746.78. The Nifty 50
advanced by 34.80 pts to settle
at 24,414.40.

"Historical data suggests that
the Indian stock market has
generally responded with resil-
ience to serious geopolitical
events. Except for the
Parliament attack in 2001, all
other incidents led to positive
market returns over the
medium to long term," said
Abhishek Jaiswal, Fund
Manager at Finavenue.
"Mkts exhibited strong resil-

ience amid recent Indo-Pak
border tensions, the measured
market response indicated that
geopolitical risks were largely
priced in and expectations of
de-escalation are prevailing
among investors," said Vinod
Nair, Head of Research, at
Geojit Investments. "What
stands out in "Operation
Sindoor" from the market per-
spective is its focused and non-
escalatory nature. We have to
wait and watch how the enemy
reacts to these precision strikes
by India. The mkt is unlikely to
be impacted by the retaliatory
strike by India since that was
known and discounted by the
market. The main catalyst of
the market resilience in India is
the sustained FII buying of the
last 14 trading days which has
touched a cumulative figure of
Rs 43,940 crore in the cash
market," said Dr VK
Vijayakumar, Chief Investment
Strategist, at Geojit
Investments.

CCEA OKs revised SHAKTI scheme for allocation of coal to power plants

PTI
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on
Economic Affairs on
Wednesday approved the
revised Scheme for Harnessing
and Allocating Koyala
Transparently in India
(SHAKTI) for allocation of coal
to the power sector to help
them meet long-term and
short-term coal requirement.

The approval was given by
the Cabinet Committee on
Economic Affairs (CCEA)
chaired by the Prime Minister
Narendra Modi, in a move

aimed at simplification of the
linkage process.

The CCEA "has approved
grant of fresh coal linkages to
thermal power plants of cen-
tral sector/state sector/inde-
pendent power producers
(IPPs)," the coal ministry said
in a statement.

With the introduction of
Revised SHAKTI (Scheme for
Harnessing and Allocating
Koyala Transparently in India)
Policy, two windows --- coal
linkage to central gencos/states
at notified price and coal link-
age to all gencos at a premium
above notified price -- have

been proposed. The ministry
further said 'under coal at not-
ified price' segment the exist-
ing mechanism for grant of coal
linkage to central sector ther-
mal power projects (TPPs)
including JVs and their sub-
sidiary will continue.

Moreover, coal linkage ear-
marked to states may be uti-
lized by states in its own genco,
Independent Power Producers
(IPPs) to be identified through
Tariff-Based Competitive
Bidding (TBCB) or existing
IPPs having PPA for setting up
of a new expansion unit under
'coal at notified price' window.

Gilts up; India-Pak tensions seen ebbing after flare-up

Informist
NEW DELHI

Government bond prices
ended higher in the face of
continuous volatility after a
flare-up in tensions between
India and Pakistan on
Wednesday. Traders picked
up bonds on the hope that
there would be no further
escalation in tensions
between the two nuclear
powers, and looked ahead to
rate cuts in India, dealers said.

The 6.79%, 2034 bond
ended at INR 103.17, up from
INR 103.07 on Tuesday. The
10-year benchmark yield
ended at 6.34%, against 6.35%
on Tuesday. Price gains were
not significant as caution
about the geopolitical situ-
ation prevailed, though the
two-way trade led to a rise in
bond market volumes. Gilts
had fallen slightly for a few
minutes after opening flat,
before reversing losses.

SEBI says REITs, InvITs must declare quarterly results, tightens disclosures

Informist
NEW DELHI

The Securities and Exchange
Board of India Wednesday
amended the master circulars
governing Real Estate
Investment Trusts and
Infrastructure Investment
Trusts to declare financial
results every quarter. These
changes will come into effect in
the period started Apr. 1, the
regulator said in two circulars
uploaded on its website.

Earlier, these trusts had to
declare their financial infor-
mation only in half-yearly and
annual intervals. The quarterly
filings will have to be done
within 45 days of the end of the
quarter and the annual result
filing can be done within 60
days of the March quarter end-
ing, in line with other listed
entities.

"The InvIT shall submit
financial results in respect of
the last quarter along with the
results for the entire financial



year, with a note stating that
the figures of last quarter are
the balancing figures between
audited figures in respect of the
full financial year and the pub-
lished financial year to date figures
upto the third quarter of the current
financial year," SEBI said. The
same rule applies verbatim to
REITs. A statement of Net
Distribute Cash Flows will be
filed alongside the financial
results, the circulars said, and
the entity will disclose it in the
annual and half-yearly reports.
SEBI also added to the list of
disclosures the entities will
have to make, which will
include statements on assets
and liabilities, changes in
unitholders' equity, cash flows,
net assets at fair value and total
returns at fair value. These will
have to be made on a half-
yearly and annual basis only.

Briefs

Voltas Q4 profit more than doubles to ₹236 crore

Home appliances maker Voltas on Wednesday reported over twofold rise in net profit at Rs 236 crore for March quarter FY25 driven by higher revenues. It had posted a net profit of Rs 111 crore in the January-March period of the preceding 2023-24 financial year, the company said in a regulatory filing.

UBL Jan-Mar profit up 19.8% at ₹97.76 crore

Beer maker United Breweries Ltd (UBL) on Wednesday reported a 19.87 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 97.76 crore in the January-March quarter of 2024-25 compared to Rs 81.55 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago.

GreenLine partners with Shriram Fin

Essar group's green logistics solutions provider GreenLine Mobility Solutions has partnered with Shriram Finance for the deployment of a new fleet of LNG-powered trucks, a statement said on Wednesday. GreenLine Mobility Solutions on Wednesday flagged off a new fleet of LNG-powered trucks at Chakan, Pune, the statement said. The deployment is supported by Shriram Finance Ltd. GreenLine is an Essar venture and India's only green logistics operator of LNG and electric-powered heavy commercial trucks.

Solex Energy bags ₹451 cr order from KPI Green Energy

Solex Energy on Wednesday said it has secured a Rs 451.41 crore order from KPI Green Energy to supply solar modules. The modules will be used in KPI Green's GUVNL projects, part of their own Independent Power Producer (IPP) portfolio, a company statement said.

Mouri Tech files ₹1,500 cr IPO papers

IT Solutions and services firm Mouri Tech has refilled draft papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise Rs 1,500 crore through an Initial Public Offering (IPO). In its fresh Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) filed on May 5, Mouri Tech proposed to raise Rs 250 crore through selling new shares, while promoters and a selling shareholder plan to sell stock to the tune of Rs 1,250 crore.

Welspun Corp bags ₹1,950 cr order

Homegrown Welspun Corp Ltd (WCL) has secured an export order worth Rs 1,950 crore for the supply of line pipes and bends. With these new orders, its current consolidated global order book stands at around Rs 19,300 crore, the company said.

Blue Ocean Corp hosts IPSC in Dubai

Blue Ocean Corporation, the world leader in supply chain consulting and training, hosted another edition of the International Procurement and Supply Chain Conference (IPSC) in Dubai. In a stirring address, Blue Ocean Director Board member and former Indian Cricket Captain Sourav Ganguly inspired the audience with his leadership insights focussing on the importance of teamwork.

TELECOM OPERATORS NET ADD 2.93 MN MOBILE USERS IN MAR

Informist
NEW DELHI



2.2 million mobile users in March compared with 1.77 million added in February. Bharti Airtel net added 1.25 million users in March, slightly lower than 1.59 million users added in February. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. showed improvement in March, with net addition of 49,177 users against a drop of 566,069 mobile users in February. Vodafone Idea lost

541,377 mobile users in March compared with a drop of 20,720 users in February.

Total mobile subscribers across India as on Mar. 31 were marginally higher on month at 1.16 billion. Within this, private companies maintained their market share at just over 92% and that of government-run BSNL and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. was 8%. Among the private companies, Reliance Jio improved its market share by 8 basis points on month to 40.60% in March. Bharti Airtel's market share was largely steady at 33.69% compared with 33.67% in February, while that of Vodafone Idea declined 9 bps to 17.75%.

Jio adds 21.4 lakh mobile users in March; Airtel gains 12.5 lakh

Reliance Jio cemented its lead in Indian telecom market adding 21.74 lakh wireless subscribers in March, while Bharti Airtel's monthly gains were at 12.50 lakh users, according to data released by telecom regulator TRAI on Wednesday.

Vodafone Idea lost 5.41 lakh mobile users from its network, and its subscriber base shrunk to 20.53 crore users.

As per the data, Jio's addition of 21.74 lakh wireless users during the month pushed up its subscriber count to 46.97 crore.

For Bharti Airtel, the mobile base expanded to 38.98 crore, with addition of 12.50 lakh users in March.

The urban mobile subscriptions fell 0.26 per cent while rural wireless count was up 0.92 per cent.

"Wireline subscribers increased from 36.91 million at the end of February-25 to 37.04 million at the end of March-25," TRAI release said pegging the monthly rate of growth at 0.37 per cent.

PNB Q4 PAT surges 52%

Plans to raise ₹8,000 cr via bonds in FY26

PTI
NEW DELHI

State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Wednesday reported 52 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 4,567 crore for March quarter FY25 helped by robust business growth and recovery. During the quarter, the bank's total income increased to Rs 36,705 crore from Rs 32,361 crore a year ago, PNB said in a regulatory filing.

Speaking to the media after the board meeting, PNB MD and CEO Ashok Chandra said the growth in profit can be attributed to overall business growth, recovery in technically written off accounts and treasury income, among others.

Chandra said the bank's capital adequacy ratio remains high at 17 per cent and therefore there is no need for equity capital during the current financial year.

However, the board approved a proposal to raise up to Rs 8,000 crore through issuance of Basel III-compliant bonds to be raised in one or more tranches during 2025-26.

Coal India Jan-Mar net profit rises 12% to ₹9,604 cr

PTI
NEW DELHI



Rs 41,761.76 crore from Rs 40,457.59 crore a year ago, the filing said.

The company said that the Ib Valley coal washery of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) with a capacity of 10 million tonnes per annum (MTPA), which began its oper-

ations in April last year, became the largest non-coking coal washery in the country.

The facility has already delivered Rs 314 crore in additional revenue, reinforcing the value of infrastructure modernisation, it said.

"Profit Before Tax (PBT) for the Q4 of 2025 rose significantly to Rs 12,873.19 crore, registering an 11 per cent year-on-year growth from Rs 11,581.57 crore in Q4 of the previous fiscal," the coal behemoth said.

NTPC to raise ₹4,000 cr via NCDs on May 9

PTI
NEW DELHI

State-run power giant NTPC on Wednesday said it has decided to raise Rs 4,000 crore through the issuance of non-convertible debentures on a private placement basis on May 9.

Proceeds will be utilised for, inter alia, funding of capital expenditure, refinancing of existing loans and other general corporate purposes, according to a regulatory filing.

According to the filing, the NTPC has decided to issue unsecured non-convertible debentures of Rs 4,000 crore on May 9, 2025, through private placement at a coupon rate of 6.84 per cent per annum for a tenor of 10 years, maturing on May 9, 2035, under the board resolution on June 29, 2024 and subsequent approval obtained through shareholders' resolution on August 29, 2024.

This is the second issue of debentures under the above mentioned approval, it stated, adding that the debentures are proposed to be listed on the BSE.

Reliance Power raises ₹348 cr via preferential issue of shares

PTI
NEW DELHI

Reliance Power on Wednesday said it has raised Rs 348.15 crore through preferential issue of shares.

The company said 9.55 crore equity shares were issued to Reliance Infrastructure (promoter) and 1 crore shares to Basera Home Finance Private Limited (public).

The 10.55 crore fully paid-up equity shares have been issued at a price of Rs 33 per share (including a premium of Rs 23 per share) aggregating to Rs 348.15 crore, it said.

The capital infusion will strengthen company's growth trajectory in the renewable energy sector. The company made a preferential issue of 46.20 crore warrants aggregating Rs 1,525 crore in October 2024. A minimum upfront amount of 25 per cent was paid on the warrants and the balance 75 per cent was payable in 18 months.

HUDCO FY25 net profit jumps 28% to ₹2,709 cr

Plans to tap Japanese mkt to raise \$2 billion

FPJ News Service
MUMBAI



net profit at Rs 727.74 crore for Q4 FY25 as against Rs 700.16 crore in the same period of last year. "Our financial results are reflective of our strategic initiatives as well as the support of all stakeholders, and being a government company with lowest levels of net non-performing assets, debt-equity and comfortable compound annual growth rate, is envisaged to play a catalytic role in financing infrastructure beyond housing for creating assets for Viksit Bharat," HUDCO CMD Sanjay Kulshrestha told mediaper-

sons. He said the company is planning to raise around \$2 billion through overseas borrowings in FY26 by tapping the Japanese market through a mix of ECBs and bonds.

In the second quarter of FY26, the company plans to raise \$500 million through ECBS, which also includes a bond series. Both will be in yen-denominated terms. From overseas borrowings, it may also look at the possibility of issuing social bonds in the Japanese market this fiscal year. Nearly 80% of the company's total bor-

rowing is from the domestic bonds and loans. Of the Rs 65,000 crore that HUDCO plans to raise, it will raise about Rs 1,000 crore through 54EC capital gains bonds and Rs 5,000 crore through five-year zero coupon bonds.

CMD said that the initiatives taken during FY25 have already begun to yield results, as "our weighted average incremental cost of borrowing has reduced from 7.01% last year to 6.75% currently. Total revenue from operation rose 32.46% to Rs 10,311.29 crore from Rs 7,784.29 crore in 2023-24. The growth reflects strong demand for diversified housing and infrastructure products and successful market penetration. Loan book y-o-y grew from Rs 92,654 crore to Rs 1,24,828 crore, recording an increase of nearly 35% over the previous year.

Infinx acquires US firm i3 Verticals for \$96 million

PTI
MUMBAI

City-headquartered Infinx on Wednesday said it has acquired Nasdaq-listed i3 Verticals' healthcare revenue cycle management business for USD 96 million. The 2012-founded Infinx is aiming to strengthen presence in the healthcare revenue cycle management (RCM) space and expand footprint into new customer segments like academic medical centers and other large provider groups through the acquisition, as per a company statement.

IANs
NEW DELHI

The private equity (PE) landscape in April remained steady in terms of deal volume, clocking 139 transactions - a marginal 1 per cent rise - continuing its consistent monthly trend between 130 to 140 deals, a report showed on Wednesday.

While no billion-dollar deals were recorded this month - unlike the two in the previous month - investor appetite remained resilient, with six high-value transactions (ranging between \$100

Mkts vs Missiles: Op Sindoor Tests Stock Market Nerves

Teji Mandi



In a significant military development, India's Armed Forces launched 'Operation Sindoor' late Tuesday, targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK. The operation has sparked global attention — politically and financially — raising questions about its impact on the markets. This article examines how markets have historically responded to India's military strikes and looks at how they are reacting to the latest developments under Operation Sindoor.

What's Happening?

In retaliation to the deadly Pahalgam attack on April 22 — which claimed 26 lives (25 Indian citizens and one Nepali) — the Indian Armed Forces initiated Operation Sindoor on Tuesday night. The mission targeted terror camps located in Pakistan and PoK. According to the Ministry of Defence, the targeted sites were being used to plan and execute attacks against India. Nine locations were hit in total. The ministry clarified that no Pakistani military bases were involved, with India deliberately choosing its targets to exercise strategic restraint.

How is Today's Market Reacting?

Indian equity benchmarks

Nifty50 and BSE Sensex opened marginally lower on Wednesday (May 07), defying expectations of a sharper decline after Operation Sindoor. The markets, however, quickly recovered and touched a high of 24,301.20, down 78.49 points or 0.32%, while the BSE Sensex is at 80,392.19, down 248.88 points or 0.31%. The pullback after hitting the day's high reflects a cautious stance among investors.

What's Next?

As Indian markets trend lower and the India VIX continues to climb, investor sentiment remains cautious. The next move will depend largely on Pakistan's response. According to LiveMint, Kranthi Bathini of WealthMills Securities noted that while Indian equities may react sharply in the short term, a gradual recovery is likely — provided the situation doesn't escalate. A prolonged or widened conflict could dent investor confidence. Market expert Ajay Bagga also pointed out that the geopolitical risk to Indian markets has now materialised with the strikes.

Teji Mandi (TM Investment Technologies Pvt Ltd) is a SEBI registered Research Analyst (RA). Information in this article should not be construed as investment advice. Please visit www.tejimandi.com to know more.

DABUR INDIA POSTS ₹313 CR PAT IN Q4

PTI
NEW DELHI

Dabur India on Wednesday reported an 8.35 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 312.73 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2025 impacted by higher expenses in a challenging demand environment.

The company had posted a profit of Rs 341.22 crore in the same quarter previous fiscal, Dabur India said in a regulatory filing. Revenue from operations in the quarter under review stood at Rs 2,830.14 crore as against Rs 2,814.64 crore in the year-ago period, it added. Total expenses were higher at Rs 2,559.39 crore as compared to Rs 2,490.43 crore. FMCG demand trends

FMCG demand trends remained subdued during the fourth quarter and full year 2024-25

remained subdued during the fourth quarter and full year 2024-25. Revenue for the full year 2024-25 stood at Rs 12,563 crore, the company said.

"Despite facing some pressures in the India business, our international business enabled us to successfully navigate the complex external environment. Our International Business achieved 19% constant currency growth in the fourth quarter and 17% during the full year," Dabur India CEO Mohit Malhotra said.



million and \$999 million) totalling \$2.1 billion, according to the Grant Thornton Bharat Dealtracker.

The stand-out deal was Warburg Pincus and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority's \$862 million investment in IDFC FIRST Bank.

"Deal volumes remained resilient, but the sharp dip in both M&A and PE values

reflects growing investor caution on taking large bets. While cross border deals slowed down, domestic mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and PE/VC activity is stable," said Shanthi Vijetha, Partner, Growth at Grant Thornton Bharat.

PE/VCs are focusing on early-stage investments so that they can shape financial performance and drive growth. "India's ability to navigate the US tariff conundrum and the response to the recent terror attacks will be critical to drive deal activity in 2025," she mentioned.

GIC Re CSR initiative improves school infra in Thane district

As part of its CSR initiative, GIC Re, in collaboration with the VMM Foundation (Virangna Mahila Mandal), has significantly contributed to the improvement of school infrastructure by constructing new toilet facilities in five schools across the Shapur region of Thane district. The beneficiary schools are located in the villages of Kinavali, Mugaon, Naryangaon, Veloli, and Umbrai. This initiative is a crucial step towards enhancing hygiene and sanitation standards, ensuring a healthier and safer learning environment for students.



Representatives from GIC Re and the VMM Foundation reaffirmed their commitment to creating lasting impact through public-private partnerships focused on strengthening rural infrastructure and supporting inclusive education.

DII / FPI trading activity			
	BUY VALUE	SELL VALUE	NET VALUE
DII	13,168.99	10,790.50	2,378.49
FII / FPI	16,371.71	13,785.85	2,585.86

All figures in ₹ crores

I always knew I was going to be rich. I don't think I ever doubted it for a minute.

Warren Buffett



Mkts close higher despite profit-booking



Motilal Oswal Team

MUMBAI

Nifty Index opened negative by around 150 points on account of geopolitical concerns but witnessed a sharp uptick to 24450 zones in the first tick. It was followed by volatility and cool off in the first hour itself but again saw a gradual up move throughout the session. It formed a bullish candle on daily frame and managed to close above 24400 marks. However it has started to form lower highs from the last three sessions and even though support based buying is intact, the index is lacking follow up at higher zones for it to sustain. Now it has to hold above 24400 zones for strength to regain towards 24650 then 24750 zones while supports can be seen at 24200 then 24050 zones.

On option front, Maximum Call OI is at 24400 then 25000 strike while Maximum Put OI is at 24300 then 24400 strike. Call writing is seen at 24400 then 24850 strike while Put writing is seen at 24300 then 24350 strike.

Option data suggests a broader trading range in between 23800 to 24800 zones while an immediate range between 24100 to 24600 levels.

The S&P BSE Sensex Index opened on a negative note but quickly recovered from the initial decline. The index faced resistance near 80800

marks where it encountered sudden profit booking. In the latter part of the session, the Sensex traded sideways within a range of approximately 300 points but managed to close with gains of around 100 points. On the daily chart it formed a bullish candle following a gap down opening, indicating buying interest at lower levels. Now if it manages to hold above 80500 zones then it can move higher towards 81000 then 81300 levels else weakness could be seen towards 80500 and 80200 levels.

Bank Nifty Index opened marginally lower near 54000 zones but remained quite volatile in a wider range of 500 points in the initial hour of the session. However gradual recovery was seen from lower levels towards 54700 zones in the latter part of the day and finally it closed with gains of around 340 points near 54600 levels. It formed a Bullish candle on daily scale as buying interest is visible at lower levels and it took support near its 20 DEMA. Now it has to hold above 54250 zones for a bounce towards 55000 then 55250 levels while on the downside support is seen at 54250 then 54000 zones.

Nifty future closed positive with gains of 0.17% at 24472 levels. Positive setup seen in Paytm, PEL, BSE, IIFL, Bharat Forge, Aarti Industries, Motherson, Tata Motors, SRF, AB Capital, Maruti, APL Apollo and KPIT Tech.

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DATA SOURCE: CAPITALINE



Techno Electric:

● Techno Electric & Engineering Company Ltd. (TEECL), has officially launched Techno Digital Infra Pvt Ltd, its wholly-owned digital infrastructure arm. Backed by an ambitious investment plan of USD 1 billion, Techno Digital plans an integrated network of hyperscale and edge data centers targeting a cumulative capacity of 250 MW spread across the country. This strategic move marks a transformative leap to revolutionize India's digital economy, aligned with the Government of India's flagship programme, Digital India.

Solex Energy:

● Solex Energy announced that it has won a major order from KPI Green Energy Limited, a leading Renewable Power Producer and EPC company. As part of this landmark agreement, Solex Energy will supply 310 MW of state-of-the-art N-Type TOPCon 615Wp Glass-to-Glass (G12R) Solar PV Modules, valued at Rs 451.41 crore and the deliveries for the same will commence from Sept'25. The modules will be used in KPI Green Energy's GUVNL Projects, part of their own Independent Power Producer (IPP) portfolio.

Jindal Drilling:

● Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has issued

Notification of Award to Jindal Drilling for deployment of rig Jindal Explorer on its subsequent contract for a period of 3 years at Effective Day Rate (EDR) of USD 35,138.71. The current contract of Rig Jindal Explorer with ONGC is expected to conclude in Q1FY26 and subsequent contract is expected to commence in Q3FY26.

Lupin:

● Lupin announced that it has launched Eslicarbazepine Acetate Tablets, 200 mg, 400 mg, 600 mg, and 800 mg, following the approval of its Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) from the USFDA. Lupin is one of the first ANDA applicants and is eligible for 180 days of shared generic exclusivity.

Tata Chemicals:

● Tata Chemicals Ltd on Wednesday reported a consolidated net loss from continuing operations at Rs 67 crore for the quarter ended March. Its net loss stood at Rs 818 crore in the year-ago period. Total income fell marginally to Rs 3,551 crore in the fourth quarter of the last fiscal from Rs 3,589 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year, according to a regulatory filing.

MRF:

Tyre maker MRF Ltd on Wednesday reported 29.28 per cent increase in consolidated net profit from continuing operations at Rs 512.11 crore for March quarter FY25, riding on higher sales. The company had earned a net profit from continuing operations of Rs 396.11 crore in the year-ago period, MRF said in a regulatory filing. Revenue from operations in the quarter under review stood at Rs 7,074.82 crore as against Rs 6,349.36 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

Hot stocks

Company Name	5/6/2025	7 DSMA	21 DSMA	50DSMA	250 DSMA	BSE 1 Year High Price	Pulscore
Tata Consumer	1154.80	1159.99	1121.16	1036.65	1063.25	1247.39	100
Dr Reddy's Labs	1159.90	1178.26	1156.12	1153.46	1259.63	1420.20	100
Axis Bank	1161.00	1178.10	1147.01	1083.91	1138.77	1338.55	100
Cyient	1161.90	1185.34	1189.97	1251.45	1706.80	2156.35	100
Clean Science	1173.00	1182.51	1187.25	1214.31	1401.97	1690.00	100
Global Health	1186.80	1198.74	1233.47	1216.31	1158.92	1443.95	100
Symphony	1190.55	1169.47	1154.38	1146.51	1308.99	1878.95	100
Whirlpool India	1194.80	1224.14	1135.44	1040.26	1701.87	2450.00	100
Bata India	1205.65	1208.09	1218.20	1235.11	1374.41	1632.00	100
Lloyds Metals	1209.55	1222.92	1246.30	1199.10	981.84	1477.50	100
Aurobindo Pharm	1211.15	1224.24	1174.95	1146.28	1288.12	1592.55	100
Voltas	1229.65	1236.24	1281.82	1337.55	1550.83	1946.20	100
Balaji Amines	1235.40	1275.66	1269.26	1287.05	1941.48	2550.15	100
KPIT Technologi.	1240.30	1242.53	1188.10	1245.06	1504.31	1928.75	100
Deepak Fertiliz.	1243.50	1285.75	1238.88	1143.01	1022.82	1443.35	100
Godrej Consumer	1250.90	1260.21	1228.99	1132.29	1268.69	1541.30	100
Sobha	1265.50	1291.81	1231.97	1219.23	1597.55	2178.74	100
Max Financial	1268.25	1287.98	1221.45	1132.81	1099.72	1324.70	100
Macrotech Devel.	1297.95	1314.61	1251.43	1196.91	1273.49	1648.00	100
Astral	1299.55	1340.13	1329.22	1322.88	1796.72	2453.95	100
Adani Ports	1320.35	1252.95	1214.77	1164.71	1310.67	1607.95	100
Prestige Estates	1330.70	1344.10	1241.02	1205.17	1589.98	2072.75	100
Rainbow Child.	1358.70	1368.99	1430.42	1356.28	1379.18	1708.50	100
Mahanagar Gas	1377.65	1346.52	1323.11	1319.48	1475.04	1988.55	100
Ipca Labs.	1382.00	1395.69	1396.72	1395.76	1418.05	1757.65	100
Glenmark Pharma	1405.15	1388.41	1408.48	1408.31	1462.87	1830.05	100
Gland Pharma	1414.20	1416.19	1442.45	1517.70	1738.94	2220.95	100
Reliance Industr	1420.55	1392.97	1292.86	1260.15	1363.69	1608.95	100
ICICI Bank	1431.65	1425.29	1377.91	1313.05	1246.85	1446.25	100
ERIS Lifescience	1456.70	1472.70	1411.29	1339.42	1244.34	1593.00	100
Torrent Power	1458.70	1515.96	1548.54	1438.17	1568.91	2037.35	100
Cochin Shipyard	1481.40	1531.16	1463.89	1388.20	1706.82	2977.10	100
Tech Mahindra	1496.55	1486.85	1392.09	1457.84	1552.76	1807.40	100
Phoenix Mills	1498.45	1592.28	1595.11	1593.14	1665.86	2068.15	100
J B Chemicals & Cipla	1503.45	1574.84	1582.13	1597.45	1778.30	2029.00	100
Cipla	1510.70	1535.72	1496.60	1479.65	1501.63	1702.00	100

Upwardly & Downwardly Cos

Company Name	4/29/2025	5/7/2025	Days	Gain/Loss %	Per Day Average
CEAT	3061.40	3630.00	5	18.57	113.72
Schaeffler India	3280.70	3625.55	5	10.51	68.97
Muthoot Finance	2150.95	2307.05	5	7.26	31.22
M & M	2909.20	3119.85	5	7.24	42.13
ICICI Securities	837.30	895.70	5	6.97	11.68

Top gainers (value)

Company Name	5/6/2025	5/7/2025	Chg in ₹	% chg
MRF	134964.41	140428.70	5464.29	4.05
Page Industries	45696.55	46355.60	659.05	1.44
Bosch	29894.70	30501.80	607.10	2.03
LMW	15841.65	16243.20	401.55	2.53
Hitachi Energy	14377.75	14741.20	363.45	2.53
ZF Commercial	12066.35	12403.35	337.00	2.79
Honeywell Auto	34833.05	35144.50	311.45	0.89
Mah. Scooters	11058.70	11279.80	221.10	2.00
Kaynes Tech	5623.40	5843.45	220.05	3.91
V-Mart Retail	3209.05	3403.25	194.20	6.05
Bajaj Finance	8797.10	8985.50	188.40	2.14
Apar Inds.	5580.35	5761.70	181.35	3.25
Coroforge	7420.10	7598.45	178.35	2.40
Oracle Fin.Serv.	8377.00	8546.00	169.00	2.02
Endurance Tech.	1870.10	2023.70	153.60	8.21
SRF	2924.85	3053.25	128.40	4.39
Amber Enterp.	5865.15	5987.55	122.40	2.09
Abbott India	30145.75	30259.75	114.00	0.38
KEI Industries	3193.35	3294.85	101.50	3.18
Shree Cement	29471.70	29565.65	93.95	0.32
Cera Sanitary.	5315.65	5406.55	90.90	1.71
Solar Industries	13197.05	13287.50	90.45	0.69
HDFC AMC	4338.05	4426.55	88.50	2.04
K P R Mill Ltd	1019.10	1011.60	82.50	8.10
Privi Specil.	1880.00	1962.00	82.00	4.36
CCL Products	694.95	776.00	81.05	11.66
Persistent Sys	5420.00	5498.15	78.15	1.44
Angel One	2296.75	2372.90	76.15	3.32
Aarti Drugs	349.75	419.70	69.95	20.00
Piramal Enterp.	964.75	1033.95	69.20	7.17
Timken India	2635.90	2704.40	68.50	2.60
Indiamart Inter.	2204.35	2272.60	68.25	3.10
A B B	5333.00	5399.50	66.50	1.25
Multi Comm. Exc.	5998.85	6065.15	66.30	1.11
Mankind Pharma	2366.90	2430.05	63.15	2.67
Muthoot Finance	2246.05	2307.05	61.00	2.72
Kama Holdings	2632.10	2691.20	59.10	2.25
One 97	815.30	873.85	58.55	7.18
Tata Elxsi	5700.50	5758.50	58.00	1.02
Bharat Forge	1085.10	1140.45	55.35	5.10
Bajaj Holdings	11843.05	11898.35	55.30	0.47
CRISIL	4647.20	4702.35	55.15	1.19
Navin Fluor.Intl.	4619.75	4674.85	55.10	1.19
CEAT	3576.25	3630.00	53.75	1.50
Ratnamani Metals	2568.65	2622.10	53.45	2.08
Cummins India	2790.85	2844.15	53.30	1.91

Top losers (value)

Company Name	5/6/2025	5/7/2025	Chg in ₹	% chg
Godfrey Phillips	8673.35	8422.65	-250.70	-2.89
P & G Hygiene	14135.20	13919.55	-215.65	-1.53
Mazagon Dock	2968.60	2817.45	-151.15	-5.09
Craftsman Auto	4750.75	4643.60	-107.15	-2.26
Bajaj Auto	7942.80	7846.80	-96.00	-1.21
Radico Khaitan	2534.00	2448.05	-85.95	-3.39
Asian Paints	2417.95	2332.65	-85.30	-3.53
Bharat Dynamics	1527.65	1448.30	-79.35	-5.19
Bombay Burmah	1835.40	1774.30	-61.10	-3.33
3M India	29578.90	29524.25	-54.65	-0.18
Esab India	4650.85	4600.20	-50.65	-1.09
J K Cements	5100.10	5055.90	-44.20	-0.87
Britannia Inds.	5391.15	5348.75	-42.40	-0.79
Fine Organic	4158.00	4116.70	-41.30	-0.99
Data Pattern	2199.70	2161.95	-37.75	-1.72
Sun Pharma.Inds.	1818.75	1781.35	-37.40	-2.06
Hind.Aeronautics	4507.10	4469.90	-37.20	-0.83
Suven Pharma	1118.50	1081.40	-37.10	-3.32
UltraTech Cem.	11692.55	11656.50	-36.05	-0.31
Adani Energy Sol	907.20	871.35	-35.85	-3.95
Interglobe Aviat	5323.00	5291.15	-31.85	-0.60
Grasim Inds	2729.00	2697.85	-31.15	-1.14
Eicher Motors	5510.85	5485.00	-25.85	-0.47
Linde India	6206.80	6181.10	-25.70	-0.41
Apollo Hospitals	7004.30	6978.90	-25.40	-0.36
Grindwell Norton	1571.70	1548.75	-22.95	-1.46
Cochin Shipyard	1481.40	1459.40	-22.00	-1.49
Pidilite Inds	5907.65	5885.85	-21.80	-0.37
Carborundum Uni	3003.00	2981.70	-21.30	-0.71
Ipca Labs.	981.75	961.65	-20.10	-2.05
Akzo Nobel	3494.80	3475.45	-19.35	-0.55
Krishna Institu.	663.25	644.25	-19.00	-2.86
Patanjali Foods	1851.20	1832.80	-18.40	-0.99
Nestle India	2355.00	2336.85	-18.15	-0.77
Ipca Labs.	1382.00	1364.05	-17.95	-1.30
Sanofi India	5829.95	5812.15	-17.80	-0.31
JBM Auto	683.40	666.00	-17.40	-2.55
Natco Pharma	830.20	813.35	-16.85	-2.03
Chola Financial	1880.70	1864.05	-16.65	-0.89
Chambal Fert.	725.50	709.00	-16.50	-2.27
HCL Technologies	1579.10	1562.65	-16.45	-1.04
Sun TV Network	612.70	597.10	-15.60	-2.55
BT Technol.	4099.35	4083.90	-15.45	-0.38
Astrazeneca Phar	8201.30	8186.40	-14.90	-0.18
Reliance Industr	1420.55	1406.00	-14.55	-1.02
GE Shipping Co	887.85	873.40	-14.45	-1.63

Top gainers (%)

Company Name	5/6/2025	5/7/2025	% chg
Aarti Drugs	349.75	419.70	20.00
Welspun Living	120.60	135.05	11.98
CCL Products	694.95	776.00	11.66
Endurance Tech.	1870.10	2023.70	8.21
K P R Mill Ltd	1019.10	1101.60	8.18
One 97	815.30	873.85	7.10
Piramal Enterp.	964.75	1033.95	7.17
IIFL Finance	344.05	367.85	6.92
V-Mart Retail	3209.05	3403.25	6.05
Gujarat Alkalies	590.40	624.80	5.83
Aarti Industries	434.45	458.75	5.59
V I P Inds.	306.45	323.40	5.53
EIH	351.45	370.35	5.38
Samvardh. Mothe.	135.35	142.50	5.28
Kalpataru Proj.	924.45	972.00	5.14
Bharat Motors	1085.10	1140.45	5.10
Tata Motors	647.80	680.50	5.05
K E C Intl.	691.15	724.60	4.84
Sundram Fasten.	917.35	960.40	4.69
Aditya Birla Cap	191.80	200.80	4.69
Vardhman Textile	451.75	472.80	4.66
Finolex Inds.	171.00	178.90	4.62
SRF	2924.85	3053.25	4.39
Privi Spec.	1880.00	1962.00	4.36
KRBL	294.90	307.15	4.15
MRF	134964.41	140428.70	4.05
Kalyan Jewellers	502.50	522.65	4.01
Keynes Tech	5623.40	5843.45	3.91
Intellect Design	783.00	813.55	3.90
Kajaria Ceramics	797.70	828.40	3.85
NBCC	92.38	95.93	3.84
Avanti Feeds	854.70	887.45	3.83
Poonawalla Fin	369.00	383.00	3.79
Whirlpool India	1194.80	1239.55	3.75
Elgi Equipments	440.90	457.30	3.72
Devyani Intl.	176.85	182.95	3.45
Asahi India Glass	726.85	751.85	3.44
B H E L	217.70	225.10	3.40
KPIT Technologi.	1240.30	1282.30	3.39
Piramal Pharma	206.70	213.65	3.36
Angel One	2296.75	2372.90	3.32
Zee Entertainment	106.15	109.65	3.30
PF Fintech.	1587.85	1640.10	3.29
Apur Inds.	5580.35	5761.70	3.25
KEI Industries	3193.35	3294.85	3.18
Aditya Birl. Fas.	256.65	264.75	3.16
Anupam Rasayan	877.80	905.15	3.12

corporate gallery

Allen Indore's Riddhesh will represent India in IPhO final



Once again Allen Career Institute students have been selected in the international Olympiad to bring pride to the country. Allen Career Institute Indore's Center Head Kamal Sharma said that the Indian team for the 55th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) has been announced. Allen Indore's student Riddhesh is also included in the four-member team. Cake was cut at Allen Indore and Riddhesh was wished good luck for the IPhO final to be held in France between 18 and 24 July.

Allen's Director Dr. Brajesh Maheshwari said that four students are from Allen in the five-member Indian team announced for the 55th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) to be held in France. It includes Aagam Shah, Kanishk Jain, Rajit Gupta and Riddhesh Bendale. All of them are Allen's classroom students.

This exam is conducted in four stages. In the first stage, National Standard Examination in Physics (NSEP), 135 Allen students were selected. Then in the second stage, Indian National Physics Olympiad (INPhO), 13 Allen students were selected. After the third stage, Orientation cum Selection Camp (OCSC), 4 Allen students were selected to represent India. The fourth stage is IPhO Final, in which teams from more than 80 countries will participate.

13 Employees Of WR Felicitated With General Manager's Safety Award



Ashok Kumar Misra - General Manager of Western Railway felicitated 13 employees at WR Headquarters, Mumbai for their outstanding work which resulted in safe train working. These employees were awarded in appreciation of their alertness in duty and contribution towards averting untoward incidents, during the month of February and March, 2025 and thereby ensuring the safety of train operations. Out of the 13 employees, 05 are from Vadodra Division, 03 are from Mumbai Central Division, 01 is from Ahmedabad Division, while 02 each are from Bhavnagar and Ratlam Divisions. According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Vineet Abhishek, Misra appreciated the alertness of the staff who were being awarded and mentioned that they are exemplary role models for everyone to emulate. The employees showed their great zeal and commitment towards safe running of trains in various areas of safety such as detection of rail & track fracture, brake binding or dangling objects in passing train, application of emergency brakes to save untoward incidents, save human life, extinguishing the smoke detected in coaches, etc.

WR records 2nd Best Ever Monthly Performance in last five years



In order to ensure hassle-free, comfortable travel & better services to all bonafide passengers over Western Railway, intensive ticket checking drives are being carried out continuously over Mumbai suburban

local services, Mail/Express as well as passenger trains & holiday special trains so as to curb the menace of ticketless/irregular passengers. The highly motivated ticket checking team under the supervision of senior commercial officers of Western Railway organized several ticket checking drives in the month of April 2025, thereby recovering an amount to the tune of Rs. 21.89 Crore, which also includes



Rs. 6 Cr from Mumbai Suburban section. According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Vineet Abhishek during the month of April 2025, an amount of Rs. ₹21.89 crore was recovered through detection of 3.10 lakh ticketless/irregular passengers, including unbooked luggage cases. Also, in the month of April, WR realized fines amounting to Rs. 6 crore through detection of more than 1 Lakh cases over Mumbai Suburban section. To prevent unauthorized entry in AC local trains, frequent surprise ticket checking drives are also being carried out. As a result of these drives more than 6,000 unauthorized passengers have been penalized in April 2025 and Rs.20.24 lakhs collected in fines.

Western Railway appeals to the general public to travel with proper and valid tickets.

whispersinthecorridors

Dr Suresh Mehrotra



Leadership dispute in Mahagathbandhan?



The Mahagathbandhan alliance, preparing for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections, has ramped up its coordination. In a notable development, leaders from all alliance partners—including the Congress, RJD, and Left parties—are working together more visibly and actively than before. For the first time, district-level leaders from these alliance parties are being brought under one platform to emphasize the importance of unity and coordination. Despite these moves toward unity, a major sticking point remains unresolved: the question of projecting RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav as the alliance's chief ministerial face. The Congress party's reluctance to endorse Tejashwi for the top post has stalled a unanimous announcement on leadership. Nevertheless, RJD strategists are actively engaging with senior Congress leaders in Delhi in an attempt to break the deadlock.

M K Mohapatra appointed as Ambassador to Romania

Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, presently Ambassador of India to Guatemala, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Romania. He is a 2000 batch IFS officer.



Kaushal Raj Sharma likely to be PS to Delhi CM

If sources are to be believed Kaushal Raj Sharma could be PS of Delhi CM Rekha Gupta. Sources said that Sharma has been transferred from UP to Delhi segment of AGMUT cadre for a period of three years with a purpose. He is a 2006 batch IAS officer.

Anish Prasad appointed as IG, BSF

Anish Prasad presently working as Executive Director, Vigilance, Railway Board, has been appointed as IG, BSF on lateral deputation basis up to his remaining deputation tenure i.e. June 21, 2026. He is a 2003 batch IPS officer of Tripura cadre.

Sanjaya Kumar Satapathy appointed as Director (HR), AWEIL

Sanjaya Kumar Satapathy, Chief Human Resource Officer, Tata Steel Technical Services Ltd, has been appointed as Director (Human Resources), Advanced Weapons & Equipment India Limited.

IAS Dr. Waghmare Prasad Krishna Guiding Lohardaga's Youth in the Right Direction with Free Coaching, Sports, and Digital Literacy Program (Jharkhand)

IAS Dr Waghmare Prasad Krishna is a 2011 Batch Officer of Jharkhand cadre and is currently posted as Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga, Jharkhand—a Naxal affected District. His vision for the district is to steer the youth in the right direction and prepare them for a brighter future.

"We want to push the district's youth towards meaningful career paths so that they don't face crises or take the wrong path" he says. Under Dr. Krishna's leadership, a multifaceted development approach is being implemented for youth, where all key aspects of development are being taken care of—like sports, education, digital literacy, and more. What makes these efforts truly stand out is that they are being provided entirely free of cost. "All of this is completely free and exclusively for students who cannot afford such facilities," Dr. Krishna emphasized. In the field of sports, training centers have been established across the district. "We have also engaged professional coaches for cricket, football, wrestling, and other sports," he adds. For academically inclined students, aspiring to become doctors or engineers, free NEET and JEE coaching has been started. Further recognising the need to provide quiet, stable and focused environment for the youth, a library has been established in the district dedicated to the preparation of competitive exams. To personally motivate them, Dr. Krishna explained the initiative taken by all the officers in the district: "All of our officers here, who have cleared these exams, take out time to meet the students and guide them." Additionally to enhance digital literacy, a computer training program has been started equipping individuals with much needed skills in today's world. "This is a Central Government prescribed course for a period of three months, somewhat like a foundation course" he explained. Through these simple yet powerful initiatives, Dr. Krishna is guiding the youth toward a brighter, more fulfilling future—one that is set to leave a lasting impact.

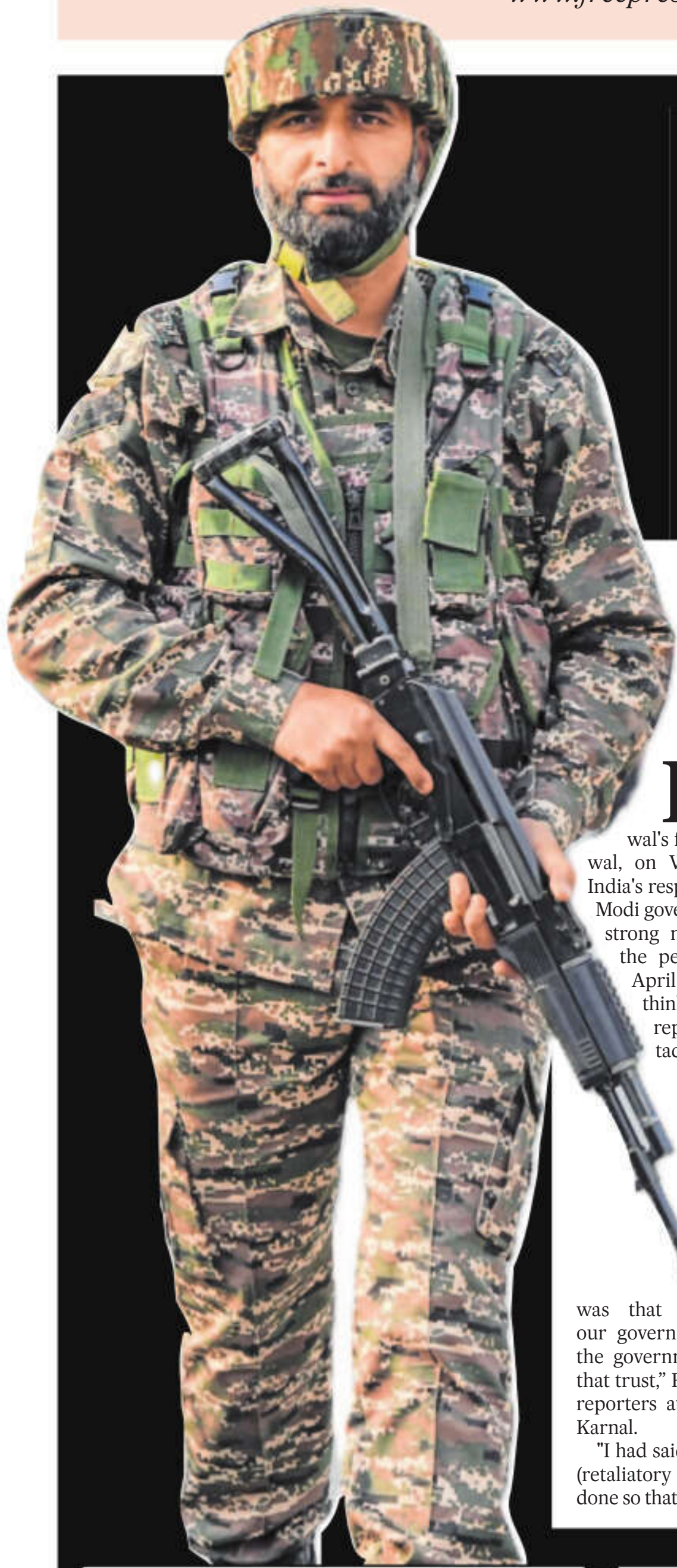


Why appointment of new Chairperson, UPSC delayed?

It has been more than one year! The Government of India is yet to fill the vacancy of Chairperson, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The senior-most Member is generally appointed the Chairperson. If sources are to be believed, some lobby is reportedly active in stalling the order. Which lobby is interested?



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OPERATION SINDOOR

EK CHUTKI SINDOOR: Victims kin hail action

Pahalgam terror attack victim Lt Vinay Narwal's father, Rajesh Narwal, on Wednesday hailed India's response and said the Modi government has sent a strong message and now the perpetrators of the April 22 attack "will think 100 times" before repeating such attacks in the future.

"When this (Pahalgam) incident happened, even then you (media) came to my home and asked what I expected from the government. My answer was that I had faith in our government. And today, the government has justified that trust," Rajesh Narwal told reporters at his residence in Karnal.

"I had said that such a thing (retaliatory strikes) has to be done so that no one dares to do



School teachers celebrate in Bikaner

such a cowardly act again...the strikes carried out on the terror targets (in Pak and PoK) will resonate in their minds forever.

UTTAR PRADESH

Shubham Dwivedi's wife Ashanya thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and armed forces for taking "revenge" on her husband's death.

"I want to thank Prime Minister Modi, ministers and chiefs of armed forces, including Air Force and Army Chief General, for taking revenge for my husband's death in the Pahalgam terror attack," said Ashanya.

"Me and my entire family had enough trust in PM Modi and our armed forces, and the way they carried out strikes at terrorist infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) has kept our trust alive," she added.

"This is the real tribute to my husband (Shubham) and those who were also killed in the Pahalgam attack. Wherever my husband is, he will be at peace today," she said.

BENGALURU

The family of Bharath Bhushan, a Pahalgam terror attack victim, welcomed the air strikes carried out by Indian armed forces on nine terror targets in Pakistan on Wednesday and said the government has done a good job and that

they stay in support of them.

Bushan's father Channaveerappa said, "The name, 'Operation Sindoor' is correct because they have removed the tilak of many women. That's a good step. Government has done a good job and they have also taken the support of many countries."

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Father of Syed Adil Hussain Shah, the ponywalla who sacrificed his life while protecting the tourists during the Pahalgam terror attack, said on Wednesday that the military strikes on terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir have avenged his son's killing.

KOCHI

Arathy, daughter of N Ramachandran who was gunned down by terrorists in Kashmir's Pahalgam, on Wednesday welcomed Indian Army's "Operation Sindoor" and expressed hope that it would bring some relief to the families of those killed in front of them.

NOTORIOUS NINE

- 1 Markaz Subhan Allah, Bahawalpur (Punjab, Pakistan) : Headquarters of JeM, this facility played a central role in planning terror attacks, including the Pulwama bombing on February 14, 2019. The attackers received training at this camp.
- 2 Markaz Taiba, Muridke (Sheikhupura, Punjab, Pakistan) : Founded in 2000, this is the main training and ideological centre of LeT, located in Nangal Sahdan, Muridke.
- 3 Sarjal / Tehra Kalan Facility (Narowal, Punjab, Pakistan) : A primary JeM launch site for infiltrating terrorists into Jammu & Kashmir. Hidden within a Primary Health Center in Tehra Kalan village, it was designed to conceal its true purpose.
- 4 Mehmoona Joya Facility, Sialkot (Punjab, Pakistan) : Operated by Hizbul Mujahideen (HM), this site is near Kotli Bhutta Government Hospital in Head Marala, Sialkot. Supported by Pakistan's ISI, the facility was covertly established within government premises along the International Border and Line of Control (LoC).
- 5 Markaz Ahle Hadith, Barnala (Bhimber, PoK) A strategic LeT facility used for infiltration into the Poonch-Rajouri-Reasi sector. Located on the outskirts of Barnala on Kote Jamel Road, it lies just 500 meters from Barnala town.
- 6 Markaz Abbas, Kotli (PoK) A JeM center named after Hazrat Abbas Bin Abdul Mutalib, situated in Mohalla Roli near the Bypass Road in Kotli. It is located approximately 2 km southeast of the Kotli military camp.
- 7 Maskar Raheel Shahid, Kotli District (PoK) An old HM camp located 2.5 km from Mahuli Puli on the Mirpur-Kotli Road. Tucked away in the hills and accessible only by a dirt track, it includes barracks, arms storage rooms, offices, and residential quarters for terrorists.
- 8 Shawai Nallah Camp, Muzaffarabad (PoK) A key LeT facility used for the recruitment, registration, and training of militants. It has been active since the early 2000s.
- 9 Markaz Syedna Bilal, Muzaffarabad (PoK) The main JeM center in PoK, located opposite the Red Fort in Muzaffarabad. This facility serves as a transit camp for JeM terrorists before their launch into Jammu & Kashmir. At any given time, 50-100 cadres reside in this facility. India has avenged the Pahalgam massacre.

JUSTICE IS SERVED. INDIAN ARMY



Long live Mother India! (Bharat Mata Ki Jai). Through

Operation Sindoor, India has used its 'right to respond' to the attack on its soil, and the armed forces scripted history by acting with precision, precaution and compassion to destroy the camps used to train terrorists in Pakistan and PoK.

Raj Nath Singh, Defence Minister



The world must show zero tolerance for terrorism. **S Jaishankar**, External Affairs Minister



Proud of our armed forces. Operation Sindoor is Bharat's response to the brutal killing of our innocent brothers in Pahalgam. **Amit Shah**, Home Minister



We are extremely proud of our Indian Armed Forces who have struck terror camps in Pakistan and PoK. We applaud their resolute resolve and courage. Since the day of the Pahalgam terror attack, the Congress has categorically stood with the armed forces and the government to take any decisive action against cross-border terror. **Mallikarjun Kharge**, Congress boss



Proud of our Armed Forces. Jai Hind! **Rahul Gandhi**, Congress leader



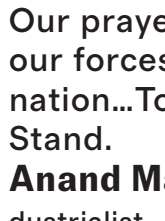
We are extremely proud of our Army. Our brave soldiers protect our freedom and integrity. May God protect them and give them immense courage to face challenges with patience and bravery. **Jai Hind. Priyanka Gandhi Vadera**, Congress leader



The nation stands united against terrorism. We are extremely proud of the country's defence forces. The courage and valour of the Indian Army made the whole country proud. We all have unwavering faith and pride in the leadership of PM Modi. **Jai Hind. Nitish Kumar**, Bihar Chief Minister



Fearless in unity. Boundless in strength. India's shield is her people. There's no room for terrorism in this world. We're ONE TEAM! **Jai Hind. Sachin Tendulkar**, Cricketer



Our prayers are with our forces...One nation...Together We Stand. **Anand Mahindra**, Industrialist

ON YOUR MARK...

TEAM FP

The Uttar Pradesh government has issued a high alert across all 75 districts of the state. DGP Prashant Kumar said that all police forces in the state have been instructed to remain fully armed and vigilant. "UP Police is on maximum alert. All units must be prepared to tackle any situation to ensure public safety. Security around key installations has been tightened, and coordination with defense agencies has been strengthened.

In view of the evolving security scenario, constant vigilance along the India-Nepal border has also been mandated to prevent any cross-border infiltration or suspicious movement.

In cities such as Lucknow and Kanpur, police have intensified vehicle checks and deployed additional security personnel in sensitive areas.

The high alert, akin to a red alert in terms of protocol, is a warning system used during serious threats or emergencies. Citizens are advised to remain alert and follow official instructions to ensure safety and order.

RAJ SHUTS TWO AIRPORTS

Flight operations from Jodhpur and Jaisalmer airports have been stopped till May 10, while

flight operations from Bikaner airport also remain closed on Wednesday. North-Western Railway has cancelled the leave of all its officers and employees and the state government has also directed all the police personnel to report to their headquarters. Schools in the bordering districts have been shut. After the air strike, some places witnessed outage throughout the night on Wednesday. Various villages in the border area remained in dark.

PANIC BUYING IN AMRITSAR

Uncertainty over the retaliation by Pakistan and fake advisories after India's Op Sindoor, led to panic buying among the residents of border city of Amritsar on Wednesday.

A number of people could be seen visiting bazaars in the morning - after the news pertaining to the 'Op Sindoor' spread with time - to stock grocery items and other utility items and queues of vehicles were seen at petrol stations in most parts of the city in the morning. There were reports of panic buying of ration, eatables, medicines and fuels in several parts of the city, even as some of the shopkeepers also claimed that they were already out of stocks of several items by the afternoon.

The orders to shut schools in the border areas by the government also fuelled the people's fears leading to panic buying. However, even as fake advisories in the regard were also seen on social platforms asking people to stock up on cash, fuel, medicines and emergency supplies in the wake of conflict at the border, there was a let-up in the panic buying after the administration issued notices and warning against such fake advisories.

SCHOOLS SHUT IN PUNJAB

Schools in several parts of border areas of Punjab, including Pathankot, Amritsar, Fazilka and Ferozepur districts, were closed till the next orders for the students safety after Indian armed forces carried out 'Op Sindoor' targeting terror launch pads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK). Meanwhile, even though some villagers had begun to leave their native villages located on the border districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur and Fazilka in the past few days, their numbers swelled on Wednesday.

- Inputs from Biswajeet Banerjee, Manish Godha, Rajesh Moudil

Misri focus on TRF

FP News Service NEW DELHI

In explaining New Delhi's response to the Pahalgam attack, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri brought focus on the terrorist group calling itself the The Resistance Front, a Lashkar-e-Taiba proxy.

He elaborated, "A group calling itself The Resistance Front (TRF) has claimed responsibility for the attack. This group is a front for the UN-proscribed Pakistani terrorist group, Lashkar-e-Tayyeba. It is notable that India had given inputs about the TRF in the half-yearly report to the Monitoring Team of the UN's 1267 Sanctions Committee in May and November 2024, bringing out its role as a cover for Pakistan-based terrorist groups. Earlier too, in December 2023, India had informed the monitoring team about Lashkar and Jaish-e-Mohammad operating through small terror groups such as the TRF.

It was in this context, Misri pointed out, that Pakistan's pressure to remove references to TRF in the April 25 UN Secur-

Our intelligence has developed an accurate picture of the planners and backers of this team

Vikram Misri

ity Council Press Statement was notable.

Misri said that probe into the attack had "brought out the communication nodes of terrorists in and to Pakistan. The claims made by The Resistance Front and their reposting by known social media handles of the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba speak for themselves. Identification of the attackers, based on eyewitness accounts, as well as other information available to law enforcement agencies, has also progressed.

Our intelligence has developed an accurate picture of the planners and backers of this team." He said, "The features of this attack also tie in with Pakistan's long track record of perpetrating cross-border terror in India, which is well documented, and beyond question.



Sajid Mir

Pakistan PM: Our Army was ready for Indian attack



Sajid Hussain ISLAMABAD / NEW DELHI

Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** said the Pakistan Army was ready for an Indian attack, lauding his forces for the "swift response". Addressing a session of Parliament amid escalated tensions between the two countries, Shehbaz claimed the Pakistan armed forces destroyed 5 Indian jets.

He, however, did not provide any evidence in support of his claim. "Last night, 80 Indian aircraft were part of the offensive, but Pakistan's air defence effectively neutralised the threat," he claimed.

The PM lauded the Pakistan Air Force and its chief "for the swift response", saying the armed forces had prior intelligence about India's plans. "We shot down 5 enemy jets, including Rafales, and also downed two Indian drones," he claimed, without providing any evidence to back up his claims.

Meanwhile, Pak Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that Islamabad is "trying to avoid" a full-fledged war, hours after India carried out a military strike. —PTI

Verify message: India to China

BEIJING: The Indian Embassy here has cautioned China's state-run tabloid Global Times to verify messages before posting them on social media on Indian military strikes targeting Pakistan's terror infrastructure on Wednesday. "(1/n) Dear

@globaltimesnews we would recommend you verify your facts and cross-examine your sources before pushing out this kind of disinformation," the Indian Embassy said in a post on X. "(2/n) Several pro-Pakistan handles are spreading

baseless claims in the context of #OperationSindoor, attempting to mislead the public. When media outlets share such information without verifying sources, it reflects a serious lapse in responsibility and journalistic ethics," it said, questioning the

daily's posts on Pakistan Air Force claims.

Pak blocks 16 Indian channels

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani authorities have blocked 16 Indian YouTube news channels, 31 YouTube

links, and 32 websites in view of the prevailing regional situation.

The move is part of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority's continued efforts to ensure the responsible use of digital platforms, officials said. The action of block-

ing 16 Indian YouTube news channels, 31 YouTube links, and 32 websites "has been taken in the light of the prevailing regional situation to safeguard national security and protect Pakistan's digital ecosystem," the officials said.

From
front page25 minutes of
fury...

He said following the identification of the attackers, "based on eyewitness accounts as well as other information available to law enforcement agencies", the intelligence developed an accurate picture of the planners and backers of this team. "The features of this attack also tie in with Pakistan's long-standing record of perpetrating cross-border attacks on India, which is well documented and beyond question."

The FS cautioned that "intelligence indicated that further attacks against India are impending" and therefore due to "compulsion, both to deter and prevent" India exercised its right to respond to deter such more cross-border terrorism.

Meanwhile, as India remained prepared to see if Pakistan would indulge in any escalation, Pakistani Defence Minister Khwaja Asif on Wednesday said, "If India stops attacking us, we will wrap up things." His remarks stood in sharp contrast to the bravado he displayed a day earlier when he had remarked, "If Pakistan is attacked then the world will remember our reaction, nobody will survive."

Now, our
women 'pin...

Wing Commander Vyomika Singh is a helicopter pilot who led rescue missions. Since receiving permanent commission in the flying branch of Indian Air Force in 2019, she has operated Chetak and Cheetah helicopters in India's most challenging terrains in J&K and the North East. The two officers provided details of the nine targets and the reasons these were picked. The presentation showed how the missile strikes carried out with aircrafts and drones hit the terror infrastructure inside Pakistan and PoK.

Flawless
mission ...

Modi also declared that "we are proud of our armed forces".

The Cabinet meeting, in a display of India's resolve to keep going with the development works in the face of any kind of adversity, took several decisions which had nothing to do with the strikes.

The Cabinet approved the National Scheme for Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Upgradation and the setting up of five National Centres of Excellence for Skilling as a centrally-sponsored scheme. It said an outlay of Rs 60,000 crore has been provided in Budget 2024-25 and Budget 2025-26 for the scheme.

The Cabinet also approved the expansion of academic and infrastructure capacity of five new Indian Institutes of Technology at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh, Palakkad in Kerala, Bhilai at Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Dharwad in Karnataka. (IIT Bhilai), Jammu & Kashmir (IIT Jammu) and Karnataka (IIT Dharwad) at a total cost of Rs.11,828 crore over a period of four years from 2025-26 to 2028-29. It also approved creation of 130 faculty posts in these IITs and setting of five research parks therein.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs also took a decision on Cabinet Committee on approving grant of fresh coal linkages to Thermal Power Plants of central, state and Independent Power Producers (IPPs) under the revised SHAKTI Policy of 2017 which was drafted to change coal allocation from a nomination-based regime to a more transparent auction or tariff-based bidding process.

Mock drill in
5 cities test...

At Raja Bhoj Airport, authorities enacted a special wartime fire incident drill to test firefighting and passenger safety protocols. Local residents, though witnessing such an event for the first time, cooperated fully with the administration, following directions and observing safety procedures.

Authorities recorded blackout sequences and teams practised moving casualties to nearby hospitals amid simulated chaos—demonstrating high alertness and rapid response.

Sajjad Gul,
Lashkar...

He returned to the Valley, where he opened a diagnostic lab and provided logistical support to the terror group.

During his work as an overground worker (OGW) of the terror group, Gul was caught by the Special Cell of the Delhi police in 2002 from Nizamuddin Railway Station with 5 kilograms of RDX. It was revealed that he was conducting a reconnaissance and conspiring to conduct serial blasts in the national capital, for which he was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment on August 7, 2003.

He moved to Pakistan after his release from prison in 2017, where the ISI chose him to lead a proxy of the LeT - The Resistance Front (TRF) - in Kashmir in 2019 in the aftermath of Pulwama in February 2019.

His brother, an former doctor in Shri Maharaja Hari Singh Hospital, Srinagar, was also a terrorist in the 1990s who had migrated to Saudi Arabia and later to Pakistan, where he is now involved in terror funding with fugitives in Gulf countries.

Opposition
unites around

He further wrote on "X" that, "Since the day of the Pahalgam terror attack, the Indian National Congress has categorically stood with the armed forces and the government to take any decisive action against cross border terror. National unity and solidarity is the need of the hour ... Our leaders have shown the path in past, and national interest is supreme for us."

Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav also chose brevity as he just wrote "Parakramo Vijayate" meaning 'valour triumphs' in his post on "X". This also happens to be the motto of the Kumaon Regiment of the Indian Army. Trinamool Congress leader and West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee also wrote "Jai Hind! Jai India!" in her post.

Coaching
centre...

He reportedly coerced some into physical relationships and attempted to force religious conversion.

One brave victim broke the silence and informed her parents, who then contacted Devendra Mudgal of Hindu Jagran Manch. The group caught Khan red-handed and handed him over to the Kotwali police. Investigations revealed Khan is a native of Gormi, Bhind, and is linked to the Insaniyat Foundation, a group whose members avoid surnames to mask identities. His institute had a partner named Pradeep Sharma, who is also under scrutiny.

Authorities suspect Khan is part of a wider racket spanning multiple districts and possibly international links. CSP Deepali Chaudharia confirmed the ongoing investigation and stated that while Hindu imagery filled the coaching centre, the accused's official records list him as Aslam Khan. The case has sparked outrage, with Hindu groups demanding a deeper probe into coaching centres being used for exploitation under the guise of education.

OPERATION SINDOOR | People in some border villages in Punjab start moving to safer areas after Op



People hail Operation Sindoor, in Ahmedabad

PM picked the op name

PTI
NEW DELHI

It was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who picked the evocative term "Operation Sindoor" to codename the Indian armed forces' strikes on nine terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, official sources said on Wednesday.

With terrorists in Pahalgam gunning down 26 civilians, all men and mostly tourists, and the devastated wives of several of the victims becoming the face of the tragedy, the name "Operation Sindoor" was considered the appropriate



moniker for the retaliatory exercise, they noted.

Sources said it was the prime minister's idea to codename the military exercise aimed at avenging the slaughtering of civilians, a few of them couples celebra-

ting their wedding at the famous tourist town, as "Operation Sindoor".

Vermillion (sindoor) is associated with married women in Indian tradition.

The picture of a distraught Himanshi Narwal

sitting beside the body of her husband - Navy Lieutenant Vinay Narwal - in the meadow became the defining image of the tragedy, which sparked nationwide outrage and demand for action against the terrorists and their handlers. The couple were married for less than a week and were on honeymoon in Pahalgam.

Dinesh Mirania of Raipur and Neha had arrived to celebrate their wedding anniversary when terrorists killed him, while Kanpur-based businessman Shubham Dwivedi and Aishanya were there after tying the knot in February.

Unidentified
aircraft crashes
in Punjab's
Bathinda area
1 farm worker
dead, 9 injuredRajesh Moudgil
CHANDIGARH

One farm labourer was killed while nine villagers were injured after an unidentified aircraft crashed and caught fire in Punjab's Bathinda district in the wee hours of Wednesday after Indian armed forces carried out 'Op Sindoor'.

The incident occurred around 2 am in a harvested wheat field in village Akalian Kalan, about half a kilometre from the residential area of the village and about 20 km from the district headquarter. Incidentally, the crash site is also just about 20 km from Bhisiana Air Force station in Bathinda. Eyewitnesses held that they saw an aircraft flying unusually low which moments later crashed into the fields. Even though some people rushed to the spot after the crash, the aircraft which had caught fire, exploded moments later killing one Govind, a farm labourer, a native of Charkhi Dadri district of Haryana.



NDRF personnel conduct a drill as part of a nationwide civil defence drill, in Varanasi

CRASH, BLACKOUT, CAMOUFLAGE

Training of civilians in the event of hostile attacks, provision of crash blackout measures, early camouflaging of vital installations, verifying the response of civil defence services, evaluating the preparedness of evacuation plans and their execution were also noted to be examined during the drill.

teers.

Blaring sirens, residents rushing to safer places, injured people being carried away on stretchers -- these were some of the scenes that played out across the 55 locations where mock se-

curity drills were carried out by authorities in Delhi.

The blackout, which took place from 8 pm to 8.15 pm, was carried out by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) to simulate emergency wartime conditions.

WHAT'S IN PAK
ARSENAL?

Pakistan possesses a wide range of missiles capable of striking targets at various distances. FP takes a close look

Shaheen Short-Range Missiles: Shaheen-I: Range of 750 km, Shaheen-IA: 900 km and Shaheen-I A: 1,000 km.

Medium-Range Ballistic Missiles: Shaheen-II: 2,500 km and Shaheen-III: 2,750 km

Ghauri-I has a range of 1,500 km, while Ghauri-II can strike targets between 2,000-2,300 km.

Ababeel missile is also part of the arsenal, with a range of 2,200 km and capable of delivering multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles (MIRVs).

Other powerful systems include the Hatf missile series (Haf I to VIII), cruise missiles, anti-tank guided missiles, and tactical rockets such as Fatah-I, II, III.

Short-range ballistic missiles like Nasr, Ghaznavi, and Abdali also bolster Pakistan's battlefield capabilities. Moreover, the military possesses anti-radiation missiles sourced from China and Brazil.

Armored Corps: Tanks

from Pakistan, China, and Ukraine

Pakistan's Armored Corps is equipped with advanced tanks developed through local and international collaborations:

VT4 MBT: A third-generation tank made in China.

Al-Khalid: Co-produced by Pakistan and China, equipped with a smoothbore gun.

Al-Zarrar: An upgraded version of the Chinese Type 59 tank.

Type-69: Chinese MBT with a 105 mm gun.

Haider Tank: Based on the VT4 design with local enhancements.

DRONE POWER IN SKIES Pakistan's drone fleet includes Uqab, Burraq, and Shahpar, designed to neutralize threats before they even appear on enemy radar — providing a significant tactical advantage in modern warfare.

NAVAL STRENGTH IN DEEP WATERS The Pakistan Navy has repeatedly demonstrated its strength beneath and above the surface of the seas. It is equipped with advanced anti-ship & anti-surface guided missiles.

MILITARY THEATRE

INDO-PAK WAR (1947)

■ Also known as the First Kashmir War, it broke out over the then princely state of Jammu and Kashmir after Independence. It began in October 1947 when Pakistan-backed tribal militias invaded the princely state. After the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to the Indian Union by Maharaja Hari Singh, India sent troops to defend the region, leading to full-scale conflict.

■ It continued till January 1949 when a UN-mediated ceasefire was implemented, resulting in the division of Kashmir between India and Pakistan along the Line of Control.

2ND INDO-PAK WAR (1965)

■ It broke out on August 5, 1965 over Kashmir when thousands of Pakistani soldiers, disguised as local insurgents, infiltrated the Indian territory across the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir.

■ The covert operation, codenamed 'Operation Gibraltar' aimed to destabilise the region and provoke local uprisings. India responded by launching a military counter-offensive, which escalated into full-scale combat along the international border.

■ The war continued until September 23, 1965, when both sides agreed to a ceasefire, brokered by the erstwhile Soviet Union and the US.

BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR (1971)

■ It was triggered by Pakistani military's crackdown on East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and its demand for independence. India entered the war in support of the

independence movement.

■ After intense fighting on both the eastern and western fronts, Pakistani forces surrendered on December 16, 1971.

■ The war led to the creation of Bangladesh as an independent nation.

KARGIL WAR (1999)

■ The high-altitude conflict was fought from May to July after Pakistani troops and terrorists occupied peaks in the Kargil sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

■ India launched 'Operation Vijay' to reclaim the territory, supported by the Air Force's 'Operation Safed Sagar'.

■ The war ended on July 26 with India regaining control. A day now marked as 'Kargil Vijay Diwas'.

URI ATTACK
(2016)

■ It followed a terrorist attack on an Army base in Uri, Jammu and Kashmir, on September 18, 2016, in which 19 soldiers were killed.

■ India conducted a surgical strike on September 28-29 across the LoC. The Indian Army targeted multiple terrorist launch pads in PoK, claiming significant casualties among terrorists preparing to infiltrate.

PULWAMA
ATTACK (2019)

■ IAF carried out airstrikes on a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot, Pakistan, on February 26, 2019.

■ It was in response to the Pulwama terror attack that killed 40 CRPF personnel. Using fighter jets, India targeted the camp deep inside Pakistani territory, marking the first such airstrike since the 1971 war.

India ready to 'retaliate
resolutely' if...: NSAPTI
NEW DELHI

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Wednesday told his counterparts in various countries that India has no intent to escalate tensions but is prepared to "retaliate resolutely" if Pakistan does so, officials said. Doval briefed his counterparts in the US, UK, Saudi Arabia and Japan about India's missile strikes against terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Change in Name	Change in name
I NIRMAL KUMARI KUMAT Here by Declare That I have changed My name as NIRMAL KUMAT W/O ANIL KUMAT so, from now and in future I will be known by my new name. NIRMAL KUMAT W/O ANIL KUMAT Add: 6/7, 8-SHANTI NIKETAN, NEAR BOMBAY HOSPITAL, INDORE(M.P.)	I, Mrs. Nilam, W/o Ram Braj, is legally Wife of Army No. 15698050H Rank Nk Name Ram Braj, resident of THERAL TH FATEHABAD DISTT. AGRA UP, Have Changed My Name From Neelam Devi to Nilam Vide, affidavit no. 761 dated 06.05.2025 court. Campus Mhow Dist. Indore (M.P)

POLICE TELECOM HEADQUARTERS, MADHYA PRADESH

Bhadbhada Road, Bhopal-462003

Fax No. 0755-2443674, E-mail: ssp_radio@mppolice.gov.in

NT No.: PTHQ/admin/Comman/D-7000/2025, Date: 3/05/2025

Notice Inviting E-Tender

e-Tenders are invited by the Senior Superintendent of Police (Radio) MP Bhopal on behalf of ADGP Telecom MP for the following items :-

The Telecommunication, Madhya Pradesh Police invites online bids for providing Canteen and Pantry Services at canteen premises of state command center, police radio headquarters, Bhadbhada Road, Bhopal.

In addition, the firm/company may also be required to serve refreshments during meetings/conferences held in Radio Headquarters (RHO), Police Telecommunication, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

Bidding Schedule	
Date of publishing	03.05.2025 (Saturday) at 1800 Hours
Bid document download start date	03.05.2025 (Saturday) at 1800 Hours
Site visit date/ Pre bid meeting	07.05.2025 (Wednesday) from 1100 Hours
Classification/response upload date	09.05.2025 (Friday) at 1700 Hours
Bid submission start date (online)	10.05.2025 (Saturday) at 1000 Hours
Bid submission end date (online)	26.05.2025 (Monday) at 1700 Hours
Date of Technical Bid opening	27.05.2025 (Friday) at 1710 Hours

1. Tender fees and EMD exempted.
2. The bid shall be submitted online only at Madhya Pradesh Tender Portal Website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> Manual bids shall not be accepted.
3. Tender documents can also be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in).
4. The competent Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason and the decision of the competent authority of the RHO shall be final and binding.

(Vijay Kumar Khatri)
Deputy Inspector General/S.S.P. (R)
Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal

G-12466

प्राधिकृत व सुप्रसन्न का हस्ताक्षर, यहाँ पर न करें अल्लख

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Briefs

KOLHAPUR

Jaysingpur gets museum

Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde inaugurated a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, accompanied by a museum and library, in Jaysingpur. The Rs7 crore project, built on state-donated land, aims to inspire youth. Shinde announced a Rs250 crore package for civic infrastructure, including a stadium and water supply scheme. Jaysingpur MLA Rajendra Patil-Yadavkar was felicitated for spearheading the long-pending project. Guardian Minister Prakash Abitkar and other officials attended the event.

PIMPRI-CHINCHWAD

Singh thanks CM, Dy CMs

Municipal Corporation (PCMC) Commissioner & Administrator Shekhar Singh on Friday thanked Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and Deputy CMs Ajit Pawar and Eknath Shinde after the civic body was ranked second in the state in the Municipal



Corporation category under the final assessment of the Chief Minister's 100 Days Action Plan. Scoring 85.71 out of 100, PCMC stood just behind Ulhasnagar Municipal Corporation, which secured the top spot with 86.29 points. PCMC's performance was distinguished by innovations such as an accessible, real-time website, AI-powered grievance redressal, GIS-based property tax reforms, smart sanitation facilities, and predictive analytics to improve civic service response times.

PUNE

Netizens slam youth's reel

A young student stopped a PMPML bus just to create an Instagram Reel. The video of this has gone viral on social media. Netizens have demanded punishment for the student. "If anyone is caught creating a Reel on the roads, they should be punished strictly. Such acts disrupt public order," said a user. "The Instagram account of this student should be deleted and he should be punished for this act," said another user.

MUNICIPAL APATHY | Residents allege eateries encroaching on free space

Encroachments, neglect plague iconic Saras Baug

Indu Bhagat

PUNE

Encroachments, lack of maintenance and poor sanitation at Saras Baug—one of Pune's prominent historical gardens—have raised concerns among residents, highlighting the Pune Municipal Corporation's (PMC) apathy towards preserving tourist landmarks.

Saras Baug, built by Nanasahab Peshwa and located at the foothills of Parvati, is a major attraction in the heart of the city. However, residents allege that its deteriorating condition is both an eyesore and a safety hazard. The main entrance is in poor shape, with the approach road heavily encroached by food stalls, forcing visitors to navigate narrow and unhygienic lanes.

Speaking to The Free Press Journal (FPJ), Srikanth Kakade, a 63-year-old resident who visits the garden daily for morning walks, said, "The eateries and food stalls have encroached on the footpath and even expanded beyond it to place their tables and chairs. There's no proper drainage. At night, when they wash their stalls, dirty water flows directly onto the road. This not only creates a foul stench but also endangers vehicles due to the narrowed road. People even park their



two-wheelers in the remaining space, making the situation worse. I go for a walk to breathe fresh air, but all I get is a dirty, stinking smell."

Echoing similar sentiments, Shirish Shinde, a resident of Guruwar Peth who visits Saras Baug daily to offer prayers to the Sarasbaug Ganpati, shared his distress with the FPJ.

"That place is holy, and still there's so much filth. The dog population in the garden has increased. They scare and even bite visitors. The entire road is encroached upon by shop owners, and there's no space for people to walk freely. Authorities must take

"The eateries and food stalls have encroached on the footpath and even expanded beyond it to place their tables and chairs. There's no proper drainage. At night, when they wash their stalls, dirty water flows directly onto the road."

— Srikanth Kakade, morning walker

"The entire road is encroached upon by shop owners, and there's no space for people to walk freely. Authorities must take strict action."

— Shirish Shinde, resident

strict action. What impression are we giving tourists? It should be clean and tidy so one can experience nature and its beauty," Shinde said.

Social activist Sarang

Yadhavkar highlighted that the issue of encroached footpaths extends beyond Saras Baug. "Encroachment is not limited to this area—it's rampant across Pune. In



Kalyani Nagar, footpaths have been blocked for over a month. Water supply pipes belonging to L&T, the contractor for the 24x7 water supply scheme, have been lying on the footpath for months. I filed a complaint with the PMC," Yadhavkar told the FPJ, asking, "Who is responsible if a mishap occurs—PMC, L&T, Pune Police or citizens?"

Responding to the FPJ, a PMC official, who didn't want to be named, said, "Action is underway. We are removing the pipes from the footpath and also taking action regularly regarding footpath encroachments."

Sinhagad Road woes continue

Ankit Shukla/Indu Bhagat

PUNE

The traffic woes of Sinhgad Road residents are not seeming to end anytime soon. A week after the road saw a 6-km traffic jam which led to delays of at least four hours, the road is seeing a logjam from Dhayari Phata to Veer Baji Pasalkar Chowk every day, which has frustrated commuters, with signals being shut and just one traffic personnel on the spot in the scorching heat on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Rupali Chakankar, who resides in Dhayari, along with Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Mahesh Pokale and several other local politicians, met Additional Police Commissioner Manoj Patil, Aniruddha Pawaskar from the Road Department of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) at the Sinhgad Road to review the traffic situation and discuss a remedial plan.

Speed breaker removed

On Tuesday night, a speed breaker near Funtime Theatre on Sinhgad Road



was identified and removed by the PMC. Additionally, the PMC initiated the work at Veer Baji Pasalkar Chowk to manage and improve traffic flow on Sinhgad Road, which included removing vehicles from the traffic post, reclaiming the occupied space and removing the cycle track, informed a PMC official.

"The traffic police chowki situated below the Wadgaon bridge will be removed soon. We are also planning to provide a substitute route for commuters on that stretch to help ease congestion," Patil told The Free Press Journal (FPJ).

Patil had visited Sinhgad Road on Saturday to assess the ongoing traffic issues. He had given instructions to increase the signal timing at the road leading to Dhayari junction at Veer Baji Pasalkar Chowk and to remove roadside encroachments near the Wadgaon Bridge. He also directed officials to shut down illegal parking spots. Four to five key bottlenecks were identified during the visit. The PMC acted on these suggestions on Tuesday and Wednesday.

"The bridge has no faults, it's actually reducing the time. Earlier, it would take 20 minutes from Vithalwadi to

Funtime theatre, but now it takes only three minutes," Pokale told the FPJ.

Vithalwadi to Funtime theatre, but now it takes only three minutes," Pokale told the FPJ. "But the main traffic issue now is occurring at Veer Baji Pasalkar Chowk as it is encroached by the fruit and vegetable sellers and autorickshaws, due to which that area has become a bottleneck. The authorities visited the site on May 3, and now they are removing the cycle track to widen the road by a few inches. We have suggested changing the signal timings to reduce traffic," he added.

Netizens slam PMPML driver

Staff Reporter

PUNE

The Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd (PMPML) bus drivers have been accused of violating traffic rules.

In one such incident, a PMPML driver was caught driving while on the phone. A Reddit user shared the picture, which drew outrage on social media, with many slamming it as "typical Punekar" behaviour.

"Oh, this is so dangerously common here. I've been in such cabs where one scrolled reels all the way. One scrolled Facebook and then switched to Instagram Reels and then put on a movie. One just kept watching YouTube Shorts," a user commented.

"There's a new low of stupidity seen nowadays in Pune. Cab drivers, auto drivers are watching reels on phones while at stoplights or even in slow-moving traffic," another user shared.

A third user stated that in Bengaluru, drivers are instructed to either deposit their phones in lockers at their respective depots or switch them off before getting behind the wheel.

BJP's Kunal Tilak to contest PMC polls

Gaurav Kadam

PUNE

Kunal Tilak, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Maharashtra spokesperson and Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Maharashtra vice-president, is all set to contest the forthcoming Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) elections.

Tilak was eager to contest the 2024 state polls from the Kasba Peth Assembly constituency. However, the saffron party chose to give the ticket to Hemant Rasane instead. With the next Assembly polls five years away, speaking to The Free Press Journal (FPJ), Tilak said he chose to contest the PMC polls.

"I wanted to contest the Assembly polls, but I didn't get the ticket. The next election is five years away, so I've decided to contest the PMC polls instead. I need to start somewhere, right? I must earn the mandate of the people and then prove my performance to my party," Tilak said.

When asked whether contesting the corporation polls would be perceived as a step down, he said, "No, not at all. I don't think it's a step down for me. Instead, I consider it a stepping stone in my political career. If you look at the BJP's structure, there's a natural progression—a corporator becomes an MLA, an MLA becomes an MP, and so on. Only a few lucky ones get to become MLAs or MPs directly."

Asked about the key issues he plans to highlight to voters in the lead-up to the polls, Tilak said he presents a different type of politics—the politics of development. "I am young, educated and honest. I come from a family that has maintained its integrity. I have already been speaking on



"I don't think it's a step down for me. Instead, I consider it a stepping stone in my political career."

— Kunal Tilak, Spokesperson, Maharashtra BJP

developmental works, traffic, roads and restoration of old properties in my constituency and will continue to do so. Besides, by being accessible, I will continue to gain the confidence of the people," he concluded.

With the Supreme Court directing the Maharashtra government to hold municipal elections within four months, political activity has picked up in Pune.

According to PMC officials, if the elections are held based on the existing population data and previous ward structure, the city will have 44 wards with four corporators per ward, taking the total to 166 corporators.

Until 2022, PMC had 162 corporators—a number likely to rise due to the inclusion of 34 merged villages.

PMPML rolls out pilot project to monitor bus health

Ankit Shukla

PUNE

The Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd (PMPML) has decided to fit "On Board Devices" in its buses to curb sudden breakdowns on the roads.

Speaking to The Free Press Journal (FPJ), Nitin Narvekar, the Managing Director of PMPML, said, "The cases of breakdown increase, especially in the summer season, due to heat. Soon, a health monitoring system known as the 'On Board Device' will be set up in all PMPML buses. This device will alert bus drivers by indicating a signal (mini light blinking). The device's functional system will be connected directly to the control

room. As the driver informs about the blinking light, that particular bus will be checked technically and mechanically. With the help of this device, it is easier to detect faults in the buses, including coolant shortages, engine overheating and other technical glitches."

"In the initial stage, we have installed this in four buses. Its analysis will be done, and once the results are positive, it will soon be fitted in all the buses. This will be very helpful—knowing about upcoming faults will help maintain the buses, and there will be very few chances of a breakdown on the road. Earlier, there were no devices installed, and the driver was unaware of the glitches," he added.

Drunk man bludgeons male friend to death

Ankit Shukla

PUNE

Pune Police have arrested a 40-year-old man for murdering his male friend for rejecting his sexual advances, officials said on Tuesday. The incident took place on May 5 near Maldhakka Chowk, they added.

According to the police, the accused has been identified as Bheem Gaikwad (40), a resident of Latur district, while the deceased is Kishor Kamble (35), a native of Satara.

"Kamble was found dead at the roadside near Maldhakka

Chowk on May 5. In the medical report, it was found that Kamble was assaulted with a heavy stone on his head and died due to severe blood loss. Later, police detained Gaikwad after watching the CCTV footage. He was arrested within the Samarth Police Station jurisdiction," the police said.

Inspector Umesh Gitte said, "At the time of the incident, they both were drunk. Over the demand for sexual favours, an argument occurred between them, which later became the cause of Kamble's death."

Indu Bhagat

PUNE

The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC), in a bid to promote sustainable waste management, has decided to explore options to procure electric cycles for garbage collection.

The city generates more than 2,100 tonnes of solid waste daily, which is collected and transported to solid waste processing plants located in different parts of the city. The PMC motor vehicle department spends around Rs113 crore per year on vehicle maintenance, including fuel, repairs,

maintenance and staff salaries.

The city's 4,000 waste pickers—most of whom are women—collect garbage daily. These workers provide door-to-door waste collection services to over 40 lakh residents, covering nearly 68% of the city's garbage collection.

Remarkably, Pune's plastic recycling rate stands at 37%—over three times the national average—largely thanks to the efforts of these waste pickers.

Traditionally, sanitary workers have used pushcarts for door-to-door collection, helping the civic



body implement decentralised waste management. This system enhances waste segregation, triples recycling

rates compared to mechanised systems, and creates four times more employment. However, the work is

physically demanding, causing significant fatigue and strain for the waste pickers.

To ease this burden, a group of committed waste workers known as the Hardworking Panchayat has partnered with Tata Motors and Social Alpha to electrify 150 pushcarts. Delhi-based startup Accelero Vehicles has developed special electric kits that can be fitted onto existing carts, designed with input from waste pickers to meet their specific needs.

This initiative, part of Tata Motors' CSR and Affirmative Action efforts, aims to improve the working condi-

tions and dignity of waste pickers in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad.

Initially, 150 e-carts (5% of the 3,000 total carts in use) will be deployed for a three-month trial period. The results will be evaluated jointly by waste pickers and the PMC. If successful, the model could be expanded to benefit sanitation workers and waste handlers across India.

Additionally, specialised training programmes are planned to support waste pickers, including skills for horticultural work, broadening their livelihood opportunities.

Briefs

AHMEDABAD
Vande Bharat to have more AC chair car coaches

Western Railway is set to add four additional AC Chair Car coaches to the 20901/02 Mumbai Central–Gandhinagar Capital Vande Bharat Express. Until now, the train had 16 coaches, including 2 Executive Chair Cars and 14 AC Chair Cars. With the addition, the total number of coaches will increase to 20. This will raise the seating capacity from 1,128 to 1,440, allowing more passengers to enjoy a comfortable journey. According to railway officials, the decision was taken after observing consistently high occupancy rates and anticipating future travel demand on this popular route. No official date has been announced for the addition of the coaches, but the semi-high-speed train is expected to operate with 20 coaches by next week. Currently, the 16-coach Vande Bharat Express comprises two Executive Chair Cars (EC) with a total of 104 seats and 14 AC Chair Cars (CC) with 1,024 seats, totaling 1,128 seats. With the addition of four AC Chair Cars, the total seating capacity will increase to 1,440.

SURAT
Fire at Surat Mission Hospital

A major fire broke out at the Seventh Day Adventist Mission Hospital in the Athwa Lines area of Surat, causing panic among patients and hospital staff. Thick black smoke was seen billowing from the ground floor, prompting an urgent response from the fire brigade and local volunteers. No casualties were reported. Upon receiving the distress call, multiple fire engines rushed to the spot and immediately began firefighting operations. Firefighters worked swiftly to control the flames and evacuate those inside the building. The exact cause of the fire is still under investigation, and officials have yet to confirm how many people may have been trapped when the blaze erupted.

RTE: Notice for collecting money

Ahmedabad: Recently, the first round of admissions under the Right to Education (RTE) Act was conducted, and during this process, Anand Niketan School in Maninagar allegedly charged parents ₹69,000 for mandatory food and transportation services for newly admitted students. In response, parents filed a complaint, prompting the District Education Officer (DEO) to issue a notice to the school, demanding an explanation within 24 hours. At Anand Niketan School in Maninagar, new students from economically weaker backgrounds were granted admission to Class 1 under the RTE Act. Following the admission, the school requested parents to pay ₹69,000 for food and transportation services.

WHO IS SHE? | She was commissioned as a Lieutenant in 1999, has received commendations for her service in Op Parakram

Meet Col Sophia Qureshi, face of India’s military excellence

FPJ News Service
VADODARA

In the early hours of Wednesday, the Indian Air Force executed air strikes on nine terrorist hideouts in Pakistan under Operation Sindoor, eliminating several terrorists. The Indian Army disclosed details of this strategic strike during a press conference, with two distinguished female military officers, including Colonel Sophia Qureshi from Vadodara, Gujarat. Colonel Sophia Qureshi currently serves as a prominent officer in the Indian Army's Corps of Signals. Renowned for her exemplary service, she commanded India's team in the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission and played a pivotal role as a key trainer. Her involvement in Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs) spans over six years, beginning with her deployment in the United Nations Congo Peacekeeping Mission in 2006. Hailing from Vadodara, Gujarat, Colonel Sophia Qureshi pursued her education in biochemistry at MS



University. Her family has a rich military background; her grandfather and father both served in the army. Colonel Sophia Qureshi is married to Major Tajuddin Qureshi, an Army officer in the Mechanized Infantry, and they have a son named Sameer Qureshi. Colonel Sophia Qureshi completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Biochemistry from MS

University before joining the Indian Army through a Short Service Commission in 1999 at the age of 17. She underwent rigorous training at the Officers' Training Academy in Chennai and was commissioned as a Lieutenant. Throughout her career, she has earned commendations for her exceptional contributions during various operations, including Operation Parakram and flood relief

efforts in North-East India. Colonel Sophia Qureshi led a 40-member contingent of the Indian Army in 'Force 18,' a multinational military exercise held in Pune, where she represented India as the sole woman army officer. Her leadership skills and dedication were highlighted by former Chief of Defence Staff, the late Bipin Rawat, who emphasized the Indian Army's commitment to equal opportunities and responsibilities irrespective of gender. In a statement regarding Colonel Sophia Qureshi's participation in ASEAN summits, General Bipin Rawat said, "In the Army, we believe in equal opportunities and equal responsibilities. Sophia Qureshi embodies leadership qualities that transcend gender barriers, earning her role not through tokenism but through merit." Colonel Sophia Qureshi continues to inspire as a symbol of courage, leadership, and dedication within the Indian Army. Her journey from Vadodara to the global stage of military diplomacy highlighting Gujarat's pride in her achievements and contributions to national security.

Gujarat rains: 21 dead, red alert in 23 districts

FPJ News Service
AHMEDABAD

Gujarat has been reeling under intense rainfall and thunderstorms for the last 48 hours, triggered by three upper air cyclonic circulations and a trough line, affecting 103 talukas and resulting in 21 deaths across the state. Central and East Gujarat have witnessed the highest casualties, accounting for 17 deaths and over 20 injuries, while 3 people and 45 animals died in North Gujarat due to rain-related incidents. Torrential downpour has battered multiple regions, with Mahuva in Bhavnagar recording 7.5 inches of rainfall within just six hours. Other severely affected areas include Lathi in Amreli (2.5 inches), Savarkundla (2.5 inches),



Liliya (2 inches) and Amreli town (2 inches). The unrelenting rain has led to widespread damage to infrastructure, electricity lines, and roadways. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert in 23 districts and two Union Territories, warning of continued heavy to very heavy rainfall and thunder-

storms in areas such as Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Bhavnagar, Amreli, Vadodara, Surat, Valsad, Daman, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. Moderate rainfall accompanied by winds reaching speeds of 41 to 61 kmph has been forecasted for the next three hours. An orange alert is active in Mehsana, Patan, Rajkot, Surendranagar,

Porbandar, and Junagadh, while a yellow alert covers Banaskantha, Morbi, Jamnagar, Devbhoomi Dwarka, and Kutch, which are also vulnerable due to the cyclonic conditions. In Ahmedabad, the situation has worsened with the opening of Vasna Barrage gates, prompting an alert for Dholka and low-lying areas. The fire department responded to over 20 tree fall incidents, while a transformer caught fire, disrupting electricity in parts of the city. Fire incidents were also reported in two AC units at an ATM on Waghodia Road. At noon on Tuesday, the city was engulfed in darkness as thick black clouds loomed. Light rain continued in areas like Naranpura, Vadaj, Memnagar, Akhbarnagar, and

Shastri Bridge, causing major traffic congestion near Thaltej and Palladium Mall due to waterlogging. Interestingly, the rainy weather sparked a long queue outside the famous Anand Dalvada shop in Naranpura, where people stood in lines for hot snacks and kheer for 15–20 minutes despite the downpour. In Smart City Vadodara, the ongoing 100-day mission to clean and widen the Vishwamitri River and drainage systems failed to prevent flooding in slum and low-lying areas. Water entered homes and shops in areas like Hathikhana and Tulsiwadi, while parked vehicles were submerged. Angry residents have raised questions about the efficacy of the municipal administration.

Air India Express leaves behind 25 passengers

FPJ News Service
SURAT

"This is utter negligence—we were left behind like baggage," shouted a stranded passenger in a now-viral video capturing the frustration and chaos at Delhi Airport on Monday night, after Air India Express left behind 25 Surat-bound passengers. The passengers were en route from Guwahati to Surat via Delhi on the Guwahati-Delhi-Surat connecting flight, operated by Air India Express. But due to what passengers described as a "complete failure of coordination and basic customer service,"

The video shows passengers arguing with Delhi airport staff, pleading for answers and accountability. The Air India Express manager in Surat was reportedly unresponsive, further fueling the anger. The incident reflects poorly on Air India Express, a subsidiary of the Tata Group, especially at a time when the airline is under scrutiny for frequent operational lapses. Passengers also expressed dismay at the flight's consistent unreliability, with many calling it "regularly irregular." "All it needed was a 30-minute delay in departure, and none of this would have



SGCCI pushes for 24x7 int’l airport

Melvyn Thomas
SURAT

In a decisive move to boost Surat's global connectivity, the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) held an impactful meeting with Surat Airport Director Anand Sharma on Tuesday, urging the immediate commencement of international air-cargo operations and 24x7 airport access. The meeting, held at 4:00 PM at the Surat International Airport premises, was attended by key stakeholders from the Chamber and Airport Authority of India. SGCCI President Vijay Mewawala set the tone for the session, highlighting the urgency of equipping Surat with robust international air

logistics infrastructure. "Surat contributes significantly to Gujarat's economy through diamonds, textiles, and agri-exports. Our entrepreneurs are ready. All we need now is an airport that works round the clock with international cargo access," Mewawala asserted in his welcome speech. He pointed out that despite Surat's global trade links, the lack of international cargo flights and limited airport operational hours have kept the region from realizing its full potential. In response, Airport Director Anand Sharma reassured the Chamber that development plans are underway. "We are working towards enhancing passenger convenience and airport utility," he said.

Rs12.5cr worth of hydroponic ganja seized at A’bad airport

FPJ News Service
AHMEDABAD

In a shocking escalation of drug trafficking incidents, hydroponic marijuana worth ₹12.5 crore was seized from three Indian tourists arriving from Bangkok at Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport on Tuesday. This marks the second consecutive day such a seizure has been made and the third major bust within a week, indicating a disturbing trend in international drug smuggling via Thailand. The Air Intelligence Unit (AIU), acting on a tip-off and suspicious baggage scanning results, intercepted the three passengers and found 12.557

kilograms of hydroponic ganja packed in 24 airtight packets. Officials revealed that the contraband was hidden in such a way that it could evade casual inspection, but scanning revealed anomalies in



the luggage contents. "This is not a coincidence; it points to an organised drug syndicate using Indian tourists as carriers," said a senior customs official involved in the operation. "All three passengers have been arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and

Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, and further investigation is underway." Just a day earlier, an Indian woman flying in from Bangkok via Vietnam was caught with 19.728 kilograms of hydroponic ganja hidden in her trolley bag. The ganja, packed in 18 vacuum-sealed packets, was confirmed by lab testing and valued at ₹19.72 crore. She, too, was arrested under the NDPS Act. These two back-to-back seizures come on the heels of another massive bust a week ago, where four tourists from Bangkok were caught with 37 kilograms of hydroponic ganja cleverly disguised among snack packets. The total value of that seizure was estimated at ₹37 crore.

Bhavika wins Miss India Millennium Universe



FPJ News Service
SURAT

In a proud moment for Surat and the BrahmKshatriya community of Rajasthan, 25-year-old Bhavika Khatri has won the prestigious title of Miss India Millennium Universe 2024. The national-level beauty pageant was held in Udaipur, Rajasthan, on April 30, with over 50 participants from across India. Bhavika emerged as the winner after advancing through the final round of 12 finalists. Originally from Rajasthan and now residing in Surat, Bhavika will represent India at the international stage in Paris

this September, bringing immense pride to her roots and her city. A former medical student, Bhavika made a bold shift to the film industry at the age of 21. In just four years, she has starred in 12 Gujarati films and won over 70 awards in both education and acting. Recently seen in a Gujarati film, Bhavika is now stepping into Hindi television and web series as well. Her upcoming projects include a significant role in Ramayana, set to air on DD National, as well as performances in Kamadhenu on Star Plus and over 40 album songs. Her film Prem nu Dhaating,

produced by Jignesh Khatri, and DOWRY, directed by Suresh Joshi, are set for release soon. She will also appear in Tu Duniya Che Mari alongside popular actor Vikram Thakor, which is expected to hit theatres next month. Bhavika expressed her gratitude, saying, "When I was studying medicine, people recognized me as an influencer. I faced many challenges being the only daughter in my family, but with constant support from my father, mother, and brother, I've come this far. I now aim to be an inspiration and a proud representative of my society."

Surat to host night cyclothon for healthy, obesity-free state

FPJ News Service
SURAT

Gujarat has declared the year 2025 as Urban Development Year, under which a series of city-centric events are being organized across the state. As part of this initiative, a special campaign titled "Healthy Gujarat, Obesity-Free Gujarat" will be held across all 17 municipal corporations and 36 municipalities on Sunday, May 11, 2025. The Surat Municipal Corporation will organize a 10-kilometre Night Cyclothon-



25 on May 11, starting at 6:30 PM from the Police Parade Ground, passing through Rahul Raj Mall, and returning to the starting point. Around 7,000 participants are expected to take part in the event.

Municipal Commissioner Shalini Agarwal chaired meetings with the cycling association, educational and voluntary institutions, sports authority of Gujarat, and the state yoga board to ensure broad community participation.

NEWS in SHORTS

HYDERABAD



Police Commissioner distributes Traffic kits to police personnel

Hyderabad City Police Commissioner C.V. Anand distributed Traffic Kit articles to the Traffic Police. New hats were also provided to the Police. These new hats are being introduced to replace the existing ones, which were found to be uncomfortable during the summer season. The new design aims to improve comfort and usability for officers on duty in high temperatures. CP appreciated the dedicated efforts of the traffic personnel. He urged them to continue improving their efficiency and commitment to ensuring smooth traffic management in the city. The Commissioner informed that a drone has been provided to the Hyderabad Traffic Branch. This drone will be used for traffic analysis and monitoring, with the goal of providing hassle-free and efficient traffic flow in the city. Informed to take the help of the Google team for better traffic management for providing free flow of traffic to the commuters.

HYDERABAD



Cybercrime DCP Sribala deputed to UN Mission, given grand farewell

Hyderabad Cybercrime DCP B Sribala has been deputed to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan for a one-year assignment, in recognition of her outstanding service in cyber law enforcement. During her tenure, she led several key operations targeting cyber fraud, financial scams, and online harassment, while also launching impactful digital literacy campaigns to promote cyber safety among students, professionals, and the general public. Her proactive initiatives and leadership have earned her national recognition, and her deputation marks a proud moment for the Telangana Police and the nation. Cyberabad CP Avinash Mohanty along with other senior DCPs, bid her a grand farewell, congratulating her on the prestigious international assignment. Her service and leadership have been widely appreciated.

RAJANNA SIRCILLA Shepherd dies by suicide in Rajanna Sircilla

A 23-year-old shepherd Oggu Mahesh died by suicide in Yellareddypet mandal on Wednesday. According to family members, Deceased Mahesh ended his life by hanging himself in an agricultural well located behind his home. The exact reason for his suicide is not yet known. Knowing about the incident, local police visited the spot and began investigation by registering the case. Body was shifted to hospital for postmortem.

Mock drills conducted across Hyderabad

To build awareness, improve preparedness in the event of an actual hostile attack

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

A series of civil defence and fire safety mock drills held across various locations including Secunderabad, Golconda, Nacharam NFC area, and Kanchanbagh. Additional mock drills were conducted at Mehdiapatnam, Mallapur, Rein Bazar, Moula Ali and Cyber tower junction on Wednesday.

The mock drill was held as per instructions from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) amid rising tensions with Pakistan post the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 persons, mostly tourists, dead.

Air raid alert Sirens were activated at 4pm within the Outer Ring Road (ORR), signaling the start of the drill. Citizens were instructed to stay indoors, seek shelter, and take cover.

As Hyderabad conducted rare air raids and civil defence mock drills, residents were advised to follow key safety protocols during the two-minute war siren.

Rescue personnel evacuated people from buildings using ropes, provided medical aid, and shifted the 'injured' during the operations. Sirens were sounded again at 4.30 pm to mark the end of the drills.

Senior police officials monitored the mock drills from the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) building in Banjara Hills.



Here's what citizens were expected to do during the emergency

- Upon hearing the siren, people were instructed to vacate open areas and take shelter in sturdy buildings and underground shelters.
- Citizens were advised to stay tuned to official sources like TV, radio, or government mobile apps for real-time updates and instructions.
- Public urged not to circulate or act on unverified information
- Those at home were told to turn off all the electrical appliances, gas connections, and extinguish open flames such as stoves or fireplaces.

tored the mock drills from the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) building in Banjara Hills.

The mock drill in Hyderabad

is intended to build awareness, improve preparedness, and reduce loss of life and property in the event of an actual hostile attack.

Capacity building training for every government employee: Babu

METRO INDIA NEWS | AMARAVATI

AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has announced that all government employees—from grassroots-level workers to top bureaucrats—will undergo mandatory capacity building training.

Chairing a high-level review meeting on state planning, Swarnandhra Vision, and Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), Naidu emphasized that structured training—both online and offline—is essential to enhance skills and performance across government departments.

"From agriculture officers to secretaries, and constables to DGPs, capacity building must become an institutionalized process. I personally continue to focus on learning new things daily—be it through technology or management practices. This is how governance evolves," Naidu said. Under the Zero Poverty P4 initiative, 15,315 "Golden Families" have been adopted by 1,118 trained mentors across the state. To institutionalize the program, the state government is forming the Swarnandhra P4 Foundation, with the Chief Minister as its Chairman. The foundation will comprise a 25-member General Body, supported by an Executive Committee and Empowered Teams.

Babu hails Indian Armed Forces for avenging Pahalgam attack

METRO INDIA NEWS | AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has lauded the Indian Armed Forces for their decisive action in avenging the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, commending their bravery and precision in targeted strikes across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

In a strongly worded message, CM Naidu declared, "With pride, I salute the brave warriors of the Indian Armed Forces for swiftly avenging the Pahalgam terror attack. With their unmatched bravery and precision, they have once again demonstrated that our nation will defend itself with an iron will."

The Chief Minister was one among the political leaders to publicly commend the military's counter-terrorism operation. Taking to social media platform X, Naidu shared a patriotic "Jai Hind!" shortly after reports of the successful strikes emerged, becoming one of the earliest voices to recognize the Armed Forces' efforts.

In a follow-up post, Naidu extended his tribute not only to the Armed Forces but also to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, crediting his leadership for the swift and bold response. "Today, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji, the world has witnessed our



Entire country waiting for revenge on terrorists: Pawan Kalyan

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said on Wednesday that the whole country was waiting for revenge for the terrorist attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 civilians and tried to undermine the integrity of India. Speaking at a press conference at his residence in Hyderabad, he welcomed "Op-



eration Sindoor" and said that it should not stop till the last terrorist is eliminated.

Reiterating that Kashmir is an integral part of India, he expressed his anguish about how Kashmiri Pandits were killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists. He also recalled about how there have been bomb blasts in Lumbini Park, Gokul Chat and other areas.

strength and determination," he wrote, adding that the country stands united in its fight against terrorism. "Our country stands united against terror and firmly in support of our Armed Forces," Naidu emphasized, underscoring a message of national solidarity and resilience in the face of extremist threats.

The Indian Armed Forces' operation is seen as a powerful message to adversaries following the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam, which claimed the lives of several Indian security personnel. Political leaders across party lines have hailed the response, reflecting broad national support for counter-terror efforts.

Gold medals for top medical students

METRO INDIA NEWS | AMARAVATI

In a significant step toward strengthening the medical profession in Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Daggunati Srihari Rao officially assumed charge as Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Medical Council (APMC) at the Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences on Wednesday.

Soon after taking charge of the Medical Council he said that it would function as a strict regulatory authority, ensuring accountability and swift action on malpractice complaints.

Among the key initiatives announced was the decision to award gold medals to medical students who excel academically at both the university and college levels.

In a major administrative reform, the APMC will now require all doctors in the state to renew their registration once every five years. To simplify the process, the council will introduce an online slot

booking system. After verification, registration certificates will be dispatched via registered post, reducing delays and improving accessibility.

Dr. Srihari also addressed the issue of foreign medical graduates seeking registration in Andhra Pradesh. He stated that registrations will be permitted strictly as per the guidelines of the National Medical Commission (NMC). While some states have adopted relaxed norms, Andhra Pradesh is currently evaluating similar possibilities to ensure fairness without compromising standards.

The council is also considering easing credit hour requirements for doctors above the age of 70, recognizing their years of service and practical limitations. In addition, Dr. Sriharirao warned that stern action would be taken against individuals practicing medicine using fake degrees or forged documents, stating that such malpractice will not be tolerated.

Detain Pakistan, Bangladesh nationals residing illegally in Telangana: CM Revanth

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has directed the police officials to detain Pakistan and Bangladesh nationals who are residing illegally in the State.

"A communication system should be established in the command control center. Strict action will be taken against those who disturb peace and security," Revanth Reddy said.

The Chief Minister held an emergency meeting with officials at the Command Control Center here on Wednesday in the wake of Operation Sindoor.

Chief Minister's Advisor Vem Narender Reddy, DGP Jitender, Home Secretary Ravi Gupta, other officials from Army, Police, Disaster Management and other related departments were present.

During the meeting, Revanth Reddy emphasised that a strong message of supporting Indian Army by the entire



nation should be rolled out and politics should not take place and parties maintain restraint in the difficult times.

The Chief Minister directed that leaves of the employees of all departments which engage in the emergency services should be cancelled and all employees should be ready to render services. The Ministers and officials should also be available and cancel all foreign trips, if any, he said.

The Chief Minister further stated that strict action should be initiated if government employees make controversial statements in the media and

social media, adding that a toll-free round the clock number will be provided for the people.

The officials concerned have been asked to stockpile blood in Blood banks and emergency medicine for emergency needs. Information about the availability of beds in the private hospitals should be updated from time to time.

"Officials should strength coordination with the Red Cross. Food stocks should also be made sufficient. Moreover, police officials should enhance vigilance about cyber security

Swiss ambassador visits AP Secretariat, lauds RTGS

METRO INDIA NEWS | AMARAVATI

Switzerland's Ambassador to India, Maya Tissafi, commended the Andhra Pradesh government's Real-Time Governance Society (RTGS) during a visit to the state secretariat on Wednesday, calling it an excellent initiative and a model worth emulating by governments worldwide.

"Centralized, real-time monitoring systems like RTGS are critical for responsive governance. The AP government is clearly setting an example for



other Indian states," she said.

Through this platform, citizens can access over 290 services directly from their phones, eliminating the need to visit government offices. Plans are underway to scale up to

1,000 services in the near future. Citizens can also submit applications through WhatsApp and provide feedback on the quality of services received. Highlighting RTGS's innovative role in environmental monitoring, Prakhar Jain, the Chief Executive Officer of RTGS said a dedicated "Aware Hub" has been set up within the system to track climate changes and deliver timely alerts to citizens. The platform is also integrating artificial intelligence to further enhance efficiency.

Over 57,000 Government positions filled in a year, says Sridhar Babu

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

Minister for IT and Industries, Duddilla Sridhar Babu announced that the State government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has successfully recruited 57,000 individuals into government service within the span of a year.

Speaking at the inauguration of a new building at Natco Zilla Parishad High School in Kothur of Shadnagar constituency on Wednesday, the Minister said, "Initiatives are underway to introduce digital classrooms

across all government schools, with a clear objective to enhance academic standards through a structured, expert-driven approach," Sridhar Babu said.

He emphasised the goal of preparing students in government institutions to perform on par with those in private schools.

"Emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence are being integrated into the curriculum to ensure future-readiness.

Teachers have a key role in restoring public trust in government schools. Long-pending promotions for government teachers have been addressed. Specialised 'Amma Committees' have been established to oversee school operations," the Minister said. He also addressed criticism from the opposition, calling it politically motivated and baseless, especially as the government is earnestly working to deliver every electoral promise.

He questioned the credibility of those who failed to provide housing for the poor over the past decade but now seek to criticise the current administration. Reaffirming the government's commitment to inclusive development, the Minister stated that Indiramma housing would be provided to all eligible beneficiaries in a phased manner. The event was attended by Shadnagar MLA K. Shankaraiah and representatives from Natco, including Lakshminarayana and PSRK Prasad.

Indian economy outlook for May 2025

RBI revises GDP growth forecast for 2025-26 to 6.5%

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

The economic landscape of India in March-April 2025 showcased mixed trends amid a backdrop of global uncertainties. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised the GDP growth forecast for 2025-26 to 6.5%, reflecting caution as other global agencies such as the World Bank and the IMF echoed similar downward adjustments.

The RBI's monetary policy

cut the repo rate to 6%, while retail inflation trends dropping to 3.34%, the lowest in six years. The Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) demonstrated strong domestic demand despite slow exports, while the Services PMI indicated slight moderation amid competitive pressures.

Industrial output for March registered a 3% increase, led by manufacturing and power sectors. The core infrastructure sector grew 3.8%, spurred on



by cement and electricity production, contrasting with declines in energy outputs. A widening trade deficit emerged, reaching \$21.54 billion due to rising oil and gold

The core infrastructure sector grew 3.8%, spurred on by cement and electricity production

imports. Cautious optimism surrounded the overall outlook, balancing between domestic demand dynamics and

external geopolitical risks that could influence future growth trajectories.

Key Insights

The downward revision of GDP forecasts by the RBI, World Bank, and IMF signifies the susceptibility of the Indian economy to global economic conditions. The adjustments reflect concerns regarding geopolitical tensions and trade dynamics. The RBI's decision to adopt a more accom-

modative monetary policy underscores a strategic effort to mitigate the effects of subdued growth and inflationary pressures. The interest rate cut aims to stimulate investment, increase consumer spending, and alleviate the burden on borrowers, setting the stage for a modest recovery.

Similarly, the notable decrease in retail inflation may lead to improved purchasing power among consumers, potentially stimulating domestic

demand. Strengthening of the Indian rupee against the dollar, coupled with a stable reserves position, enhances India's capacity to manage external financial obligations and strengthens economic resilience. Despite various pressures and challenges, there remains a potential for robust recovery, provided that the country navigates its resource management, investment strategies, and consumer confidence effectively.

Quick Trail

MYSURU

MP: India must keep hitting Pak



Mysuru Member of Parliament Yaduveer Wadiyar on Wednesday welcomed the nation's military attack on Pakistan and said it should not be a one-time measure but should be resorted to whenever the neighbouring nation uses terrorists to weaken India.

Speaking to reporters, he stressed that the nation and all political party leaders must be united in this hour of crisis and must support the decisions taken by Prime Minister Modi for initiating strikes against terrorist camps in neighbouring Pakistan.

India must continue destroying terrorist camps without causing damage to civilians in both Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, he stressed.

RAICHUR

Mock drill conducted by Railways



A mock drill was conducted by the Civil Defence team from the South Central Railway, Guntakal Division to Raichur Railway Station. The Civil Defence team of more than 30 people carried out the mock operation to create awareness about the protection of citizens during war-like attacks.

Using Lakshmi bombs and smoke bombs, awareness was created on how people should protect themselves, how officials should be alert, and how to rescue the injured step-by-step and provide first aid. The mock drill was conducted under the leadership of K. Sudarshan Reddy, Division Civil Defence Emergency Officer.

KARWAR

Security up at Karwar naval base



Following India's Operation Sindoor operation on Pakistani militant bases, security has been increased at Kadam-ba Naval Base and the port in Karwar.

The Coast Guard has also intensified combing operations in the Arabian Sea, and restrictions have been imposed on foreign cruise ships arriving at Karwar port if they have Pakistani or Chinese crew members. Coastal Guard police are conducting intense inspections of ships arriving at the port. Fishing boats are also being inspected. Fishermen have been instructed not to go beyond 12 nautical miles and have been instructed against going into the deep sea for fishing.

CHITRADURGA

More than 100 take ill due to food poisoning

More than 100 people have fallen ill due to food poisoning after consuming food at a wedding in Mallihalli village, Hosadurga taluk in Chitradurga district.

The incident occurred on Monday during the wedding celebration of Prabhulingappa's son in Mallihalli village. The wedding took place on Sunday at Gavirangapura hill. From Monday morning, those who attended the wedding started experiencing stomach pain. They were admitted to hospital with vomiting and diarrhea.

Patients have been admitted to the Srirampura Community Health Center. Due to the beds being full, treatment camps have been organized in the villages surrounding Mallihalli. The incident took place within the limits of Srirampura Police Station.

ATTACK ON TERROR

Siddu praises precision strikes on Pak

CM: Salute extraordinary courage of armed forces

NT Correspondent

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday saluted the armed forces for conducting precision strikes on Pakistan under 'Operation Sindoor' to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 civilians were killed.

"Terror has no place in our land, and India will respond with strength and unity," he said, warning that the country will not hesitate to wage war against Pakistan if it launches a counterattack.

"I salute the extraordinary courage of our armed forces behind 'Operation Sindoor'. Their heroic action reaffirms that India will never tolerate terror in any form," Siddaramaiah said in a post on 'X'.

Stating that the brutal at-



tack in Pahalgam was not just on innocent lives but an assault on the dreams and spirit of India, he said, "Every effort by our brave soldiers is a pledge to bring justice to the victims, their families, and to every Indian who believes in peace and humanity."

"Karnataka joins the na-

tion in expressing unwavering solidarity with our forces. We are proud of your valour, sacrifice, and unflinching commitment to protect our sovereignty," he added.

Later, speaking to reporters, Siddaramaiah said his government would fully support the central govern-

ment and ensure that all precautionary measures are taken in the state.

Following the strikes on terror bases, the state Congress cancelled its "Samvidhan Bachao (Save the constitution) and Anti-Price Rise Rally" scheduled in Raichur today, which was aimed against the central government.

"At this juncture, it would be inappropriate to protest against the central government's policies. So, we have cancelled the rally, for the sake of our soldiers and in support of the attack on terror bases," he said, appealing to the people of the state to stand with the central government at this critical time.

He noted that mock drills aimed at keeping the state alert would be held in Bengaluru today and later in places like Mysuru, Uttara

Kannada, and Raichur.

The CM stressed that national security is paramount and cannot be compromised.

"In such a situation, we will stand one hundred per cent with the country," he affirmed.

Pointing out that Pakistan continues to support terrorists and their activities, the Chief Minister said he fully supports the Central government and the defence forces' attack on Pakistan.

"This is a wake-up call for Pakistan. Indian forces have identified terror bases and attacked them, ensuring that innocent civilians are not harmed.

I salute their efficiency and expertise and extend full support to the armed forces on behalf of my government, the state, and the people.

Terror attack victim's kin welcome Op Sindoor



NT Correspondent

BENGALURU

The family of Bharath Bhushan, a Pahalgam terror attack victim, welcomed the air strikes carried out by Indian armed forces on nine terror targets in Pakistan on Wednesday and said government has done a good job and that they stay in support of them.

Bhushan from Bengaluru, who was visiting Pahalgam with his wife and three-year-old son, was shot dead by terrorists on April 22. His wife, Sujatha, and their child survived the attack.

Bushan's father Chanaveerappa said he heard the news at 6 am that the airforce has attacked the

terrorist camps in Pakistan. "They have attacked and killed I heard but still some more people are escaping. Government has to take steps to kill them also," he told PTI videos.

Appreciating government's effort, he said, "The name, 'Operation Sindoor' is correct because they have removed the tilak of many women. That's a good step. Government has done a good work and they have also taken the support of many countries."

"Pakistan is sheltering terrorists in their hideouts, giving them money. They are supported and trained by Pakistan's army. Modi has taken this message to different countries and explained Pakistan's dirty operation," he added.

Special prayers for armed forces at Endowment Dept temples in K'taka

NT Correspondent

BENGALURU

In the wake of the precision strikes on Pakistan under 'Operation Sindoor', Karnataka Endowment Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Wednesday directed that special prayers be organised in all temples under

the Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Department, for the well-being of the Indian Armed Forces.

"In retaliation for the Pahalgam massacre, the Indian Armed Forces attacked terrorist camps in Pakistan. As part of this, I have ordered special pujas to be

held in all Muzrai (endowment) temples across the state," Reddy posted on 'X'.

"Congratulating our proud Indian Armed Forces for their operation, all temples under the Religious Endowments Department have been directed to perform special pujas," a circular said.

Cong posts Gandhi quote emphasising peace, deletes

NT Correspondent

BENGALURU

The Karnataka unit of Congress on Wednesday posted a Mahatma Gandhi's quote emphasising peace on its social media handle and deleted it later.

"The most powerful weapon of mankind is peace - Mahatma Gandhi," the Congress posted on its handle in social media 'X'.

They posted it hours after India carried out air strike at nine locations inside Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) as part of its 'Operation Sindoor'

to avenge the killing of 26 tourists in a terrorist attack at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir.

The party later lauded the Indian Air Force in another post.

"The Indian Air Force (IAF), widely recognised as one of the world's strongest air forces gave a befitting reply to the cowardly #PahalgamTerroristAttack. We stand with the govt, we stand with our security forces. #OperationSindoor," Congress said.

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and Congress state

president D K Shivakumar called India's response to Pahalgam "befitting".

"#OperationSindoor is a befitting reply to the cowardly Pahalgam terror attack. We stand with the govt, we stand with our security forces. Jai Hind." Shivakumar said in a post on 'X'.

The BJP state chief Vijayendra played the Congress saying every Indian welcomes India's action. "We feel proud and stand by Indian soldiers but unfortunately the Congress in Karnataka is advocating peace at this juncture," he told reporters.

EXPERT VIEW

‘Gastrointestinal cancers on the rise in India, Karnataka’

NT Correspondent

MYSURU

Consultant - Surgical Gastroenterology, Manipal Hospital Mysuru Dr. Vasudeva Pai H on Wednesday said that India and Karnataka too are witnessing an alarming surge in gastrointestinal (GI) cancers in recent years.

Speaking to reporters at an interactive meet, he said hospitals in Karnataka are reporting a steep rise in late-stage presentations of cancers affecting the esophagus (food pipe), stomach, colon, rectum, liver and pancreas as per available data.

Many of them could have been treated more effectively if diagnosed earlier. He also highlighted the need to raise public awareness and urge people not to ignore early signs and symptoms that could indicate gastroin-



testinal cancer.

He shared some valuable insights on common gastrointestinal cancers, identifying early symptoms, diagnostic tests, and available treatment options.

Highlighting how the majority of GI cancers are detected in late stages Dr. Pai stated, "GI cancers affect

multiple parts of the digestive system, including the esophagus, stomach, colon, rectum, pancreas, liver, gall bladder, and small intestine. What starts off as common indigestion, bloating, or loss of appetite may be an early sign of GI cancer. The danger lies in the delay.

We are seeing more and

more cases where patients come to us when curative treatment is no longer possible."

Explaining the causes and risk factors Dr. Pai listed tobacco and alcohol use, diets high in fat and low in fiber, obesity, chronic liver disease, and genetic predisposition as significant contributing factors.

He also listed the important early warning signs that often go unnoticed or are misdiagnosed such as difficulty in swallowing (esophageal cancer), persistent vomiting or early satiety (stomach/small intestine), back pain (pancreatic cancer), blood in stools (colon/rectal cancer), jaundice (bile duct or liver cancer).

Dr. Pai noted that many individuals often ignore their initial symptoms and delay medical intervention.

B'luru Airport issues advisory, cancels flights

NT Correspondent

BENGALURU

Bengaluru Airport on Wednesday issued a passenger advisory stating that due to prevailing airspace restrictions, some flights have been cancelled on May 7.

It requested passengers to verify their flight status with their respective airlines before heading to the Kempegowda International Airport.

The announcement came after India's precision strikes on terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occu-

pied Kashmir.

"We're expecting impact on some flights across our network due to airspace restrictions.

All passengers are re-

Steps taken to secure vital installations: HM

NT Correspondent

BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday said the state government has initiated action based on Central advisories regarding measures to be taken amid rising tensions with Pakistan and initiated steps to protect vital installations including dams and industries.

Welcoming 'Operation Sindoor', where Indian jets targeted terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) early on Wednesday, he said that as a political party, they stand with the government.

Speaking to reporters, Parameshwara said that on behalf of Congress party, "we support the government's decision".

"This is a matter of national security, and at a time like this, everyone should speak with one voice. We fully support the government's and our military forces' actions concerning the nation's se-



curity," he added.

He said the state government has received advisories from the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

"So, we have started implementing those. Today, we are initiating programmes. We have taken special interest in securing major installations--be it power stations, irrigation dams, or industries-- we are taking steps to protect them. These advisories have come from the Government of India, and we are acting on them," Parameshwara said.

The minister added that Superintendents of Police have been informed and instructed to remain alert concerning security.

Pahalgam attack victim's mom says she had faith in PM

NT Correspondent

SHIVAMOGGA

Sumathi, the mother of Manjunath Rao, a Pahalgam terror attack victim, welcomed the air strikes carried out by Indian armed forces on nine terror targets in Pakistan on Wednesday and said she had faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

She also said that she did not want her son's "sacrifice" to go waste.

She said, it is not a feeling of satisfaction, as her son who has killed won't come back, but such things should not happen to others' children.

"We had faith that Modi will take right decision and accordingly he has taken. Nothing should happen to innocents, but those who try to oppress or indulge in rogery against us should not be spared. My son's sacrifice should not go waste. I feel that the right decision



has been taken," Sumathi told PTI videos.

"We knew that something will be done. We are common people and not big to

give suggestions to leaders. We had faith in Modi. It is not a feeling of satisfaction, because my son who has gone won't come back, but such things should not happen to others' children in the future, everyone should be able to travel freely," she added.

Manjunath Rao and Bharath Bushan from Karnataka were among the 26 people killed in front of their families in Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22.

Mock drill held as part of ‘Operation Abhyas’ in B'luru

NT Correspondent

BENGALURU

Authorities on Wednesday carried out a large scale civil defence mock drill at various locations in the city under 'Operation Abhyas' in line with the direction of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The drill was part of a nationwide preparedness exercise ordered by the MHA.

According to officials, soon after the siren blew at 3.48 pm in various locations, the civil defence personnel,

police, fire and emergency services personnel swung into action.

The drill included rescue operations in the event of fire, removing people from beneath the debris, evacuation of people from high rises and medical emergency services. The drill went on for about half-an-hour.

As per the direction of MHA to conduct Civil Defence Exercise called 'Operation Abhyas' first mock drill was conducted at premises of Director Gen-



eral, Civil Defence at 4 pm. Similar exercises were

conducted in some other places like Raichur.

Writer-poet Siddalingaiah dies at 94



NT Correspondent

BENGALURU

Noted writer and poet GS Siddalingaiah passed away at a private hospital here on Tuesday night due to age-related issues. He was 94.

He is survived by his wife. According to family sources, the last rites were performed at the Lingayat crematorium in Chamaraipet, Bengaluru, on Wednesday afternoon.

Born in 1931 in Bellavi village of Tumakuru district, Siddalingaiah completed his education locally up to college level and earned his BA (honours) and MA in Kannada with first class.

He began his career as a Kannada lecturer at the Government Arts College in Chitradurga and later served as principal in various colleges and as Director of Collegiate Education.

He also served as the president of the Kannada Sahitya Parishat.

He was the recipient of Sahitya Akademi's special honour, Rajyotsava Award, Basava Award, Masti Award, among others.



requested to please check directly with your airline for the latest information. You can also find timely updates on their (X) pages," the BLR airport said on 'X'.

IIT Dharwad gets approval for expansion

NT Correspondent

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet has approved a major infrastructure and academic capacity expansion project for five Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), including IIT Dharwad in Karnataka, at an estimated cost of ₹11,828.79 crore.

Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi announced that the decision was taken during the Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday.



EMOTIONALLY SUPERCHARGED RESPONSES

Ramachandran's daughter hails Operation Sindoor

Arathy, the daughter of N Ramachandran, who was tragically killed by terrorists in Pahalgam, Kashmir, expressed strong support for the Indian Army's newly launched "Operation Sindoor". Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Arathy voiced her hopes that this initiative would provide some solace to the families who, like hers, have suffered from the brutalities of terrorism.

Arathy, whose father's death left an indelible mark on her family, acknowledged that the operation signifies more than just military action. She described it as a powerful response from the women of India, reflecting the collective resolve to confront the menace of terrorism.

Arathy's father, N Ramachandran, was among the many innocent lives lost during terrorist attacks in the



Kashmir Valley. While the operation's immediate impact remains to be fully assessed, Arathy's words re-

flected a sentiment shared by numerous families who have lost loved ones in similar circumstances. The pain of such loss is often compounded by the feeling that justice is elusive, and the perpetrators remain unpunished. For these families, Operation Sindoor offers a glimmer of hope that action will be taken, and justice may be served.

"We've seen the destruction caused by these terrorists in our lives. My father's death is a constant reminder of the harsh reality faced by thousands of families like mine. I believe this operation will help bring closure to many of us," said Arathy. Her call for justice echoes the demands of families across India who have been victims of cross-border terrorism. Arathy's father Ramachandran was gunned down in front of her. eyes.

Actors salute heroes

Actors Mammooty and Mohanlal have publicly endorsed India's military response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Mammooty expressed



his support on social media, stating, "Salute to our heroes. Operation Sindoor once again proves that the Indian Army will listen to the call when the country calls. Thank you for saving lives and ke-

eping hope alive. You are raising the pride of the country to the sky, Jai Hind."

Mohanlal also voiced his sentiments, saying, "We



wear sindoor not just as a tradition, but as a symbol of our unwavering resolve. Challenge us and we will rise, fearless and stronger than ever. Salute to every brave heart of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force "

Mock drills at 126 centres in 14 districts

HD Bureau
KOCHI

At 4:00 PM on Wednesday, all 14 districts of Kerala activated a coordinated civil defence mock drill, aligning with the Union Home Ministry's directive under Operation Abhyaas. This nationwide exercise, the most extensive since the 1971 India-Pakistan war, aims to assess and enhance civilian preparedness in the wake of escalating tensions between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam attack on April 22.

The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority spearheaded the operation, integrating air-raid siren tests, evacuation simulations, and public awareness campaigns. Chief Secretary Dr. A. Jayathilak urged citizens, institutions, and organisations to participate actively, emphasising vigilance and the importance of not succumbing to panic.

The drills are part of a broader national strategy involving 244 districts across the country. In Kerala, the exercise included the operational testing of sirens installed at 86 locations, primarily schools and government buildings. Of these, 83 functioned satisfactorily, while three experienced technical issues, which are

being addressed. These sirens are part of the Kerala Warnings Crisis and Hazard Management system, designed to disseminate information and issue warnings effectively during crises.

In Kerala, mock drills were conducted across all 14 districts, with the state government urging public cooperation and preparedness.

The civil defence apparatus has been actively involved in various disaster response operations. For instance, during the landslides in Chooralmala and Mundakkai, civil defence teams played a crucial role in rescue operations, highlighting their importance in disaster response.

Additionally, mock drills have been conducted to assess tsunami preparedness in coastal regions like Alappad and Valiyaparamba, aiming to certify these areas as 'tsunami-ready' based on various indicators such as evacuation route maps and awareness classes.

The state's commitment to disaster preparedness is further exemplified by the mock drill conducted to assess flood preparedness in

Thiruvananthapuram, where a hypothetical flood situation was created in five panchayats, including Chenkal, Poovachal, Velland, Kadakkavoor, and Kochi.

'Sindoor over Pakistan'

Union Minister Suresh Gopi, speaking at the Thrissur Pooram festival, defended India's surgical strike, stating that the operation was a necessary measure to protect national security and prevent future terrorist attacks. He emphasised that the strikes were not acts of revenge but steps taken in accordance with international norms to safeguard citizens. "Thrissur Pooram filled the sky with myriad colours, Operation Sindoor sprayed sindoor over Pakistan," the politician-turned actor said.



Only the initial phase, feels Antony

Veteran Congress leader and former Union Minister for Defence A.K. Antony has marked Operation Sindoor as only the initial phase in a broader strategy against terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Antony's remarks, made on May 7, 2025, raise important questions about the trajectory of India's counterterrorism efforts and the potential for escalating military actions in the region.

While acknowledging the significance of Operation Sindoor, which targeted several extremist camps,

Antony framed the operation as just the beginning. His statement has amplified speculation about the next steps in India's ongoing military strategy and whether more extensive actions are on the horizon.

Many analysts believe that his remarks reflect the government's broader strategy of strengthening its offensive capabilities. If this approach gains momentum, it could signal a more aggressive posture in dealing with groups operating in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. ic discussions.



UNITED FRONT | 'A' and 'T' groups, historically influential within the Kerala Congress, have united in their criticism of the current leadership

Leadership crisis intensifies as Sudhakaran refuses to budge

HD Bureau
KOCHI

A leadership impasse within the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee has intensified, with party president K Sudhakaran resisting pressure from the All India Congress Committee to step down. Sudhakaran's refusal, bolstered by support from senior leaders, has escalated tensions within the party, prompting concerns about the unity of the United Democratic Front ahead of upcoming elections.

Sudhakaran has publicly dismissed reports of a leadership change as spec-

ulative, asserting his commitment to the party's directives. He emphasized that no official communication from the AICC has requested his resignation, stating, "If they ask me to step down, I will obey their command as a loyal and obedient party worker." This stance has been met with both support and opposition within the party ranks.

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has voiced strong support for Sudhakaran, highlighting the party's electoral successes under his leadership. Tharoor noted that the Congress secured significant victories



in the 2024 general elections and subsequent bypolls, arguing that there is no justification for a change in leadership. "Let him continue. Everyone should stand together with him," Tharoor

stated, reinforcing the call for unity within the party.

However, internal divisions persist, with factions within the KPCC expressing dissatisfaction over the selection of block unit presi-

dents and alleging a lack of consultation in decision-making processes. The 'A' and 'T' groups, historically influential within the Kerala Congress, have united in their criticism of the current leadership, accusing Sudhakaran and Opposition Leader V D Satheesan of sidelining senior leaders and consolidating power without broader consensus. In response to the escalating discord, the AICC has initiated efforts to mediate and restore cohesion within the Kerala Congress. A high-level committee comprising key figures, including Sudhakaran, Satheesan, UDF Co-

nvener M M Hassan, senior leader Ramesh Chennithala, AICC General Secretary K C Venugopal, and General Secretary in charge of Kerala Deepa Dasmunshi, has been formed to address the internal conflicts and strategize for upcoming elections. Dasmunshi has actively engaged with UDF partners, seeking to reassure allies of the Congress's commitment to unity and collaborative decision-making. Despite these interventions, the leadership crisis remains unresolved, with Sudhakaran's faction demanding the replacement of Dasmunshi, citing her controversial role.

Sarin gets a job!

HD Bureau
KOCHI

Dr P Sarin, a former Congress leader who recently joined the Communist Party of India, has been appointed as the advisor to Vigyan Kerala, a significant development in the political landscape of the state. The appointment is marked by the offer of a monthly salary of ₹80,000 for his advisory role.

Sarin, who was previ-



ously the convenor of the Kerala Pradesh Congress

Committee Digital Media Cell, made headlines when he shifted allegiance from Congress to CPM during the Palakkad by-election. His move has drawn attention, with political analysts seeing it as a noteworthy shift in Kerala's political dynamics. Sarin's decision to leave Congress and align with the ruling CPM has been widely discussed, particularly in light of his electoral performance.

Murmu's Sabarimala visit a milestone

HD Bureau
KOCHI

President Droupadi Murmu's upcoming visit to the Sabarimala temple in Kerala on May 19 is poised to be a defining moment in the temple's history. The two-day trip, which is set to place the President at the revered hill shrine, comes at a time when Sabarimala has significantly bolstered its position as a prominent spiritual and religious hub, both within India and globally. Managed by the Travancore



Devaswom Board, the Sabarimala temple has always been at the heart of a unique

religious and cultural tradition. P S Prashanth, President of the TDB, remarked

that this visit by the head of state will be "a milestone in the overall development of Sabarimala," underscoring the importance of the visit at a time when the temple's stature continues to rise. This will not be the first time a sitting president visits the shrine, as President V V Giri had made a similar visit decades ago. However, this particular visit holds special significance in the modern context, with the temple's increasing prominence and the larger developments surrounding its infrastructure. Sabarimala, dedicated to

Lord Ayyappa, attracts millions of devotees annually, particularly during the Mandala-Makaravilakk u pilgrimage season. Its prominence has only grown in the last few decades, with a steady increase in the number of devotees travelling to the hilltop temple from all parts of India and beyond. The temple's location, at a challenging altitude, and the pilgrimage's long-standing traditions, including stringent rituals and fasting, make it a distinct and revered spiritual journey for many.. The Sabarimala pi-

offgrid

Elephant rampage mars Pooram fireworks show

HD Bureau
KOCHI

At least 42 people were injured when an elephant went on a rampage during the Thrissur Pooram celebrations in the early morning of Wednesday. The incident unfolded around 2:15 a.m. on Pandi Samooha Madam Road, near Swaraj Round, where a large crowd had gathered to enjoy the renowned fireworks display. The elephant, Uttoly Raman, part of the procession

organised by Thiruvambady Devaswom, suddenly turned aggressive, triggering widespread panic.

The chaos erupted as the 25-year-old tusker broke free from its handlers and began charging through the crowd. Those closest to the animal were struck or knocked over as people scrambled for cover in the dark, chaotic streets. Emergency responders and local authorities rushed to the scene to manage the si-

tuation.

The animal's violent outburst disrupted the lively festivities of the Pooram, one of Kerala's most famous cultural events, held annually at the Vadakkunnathan Temple in Thrissur. The firework display, a highlight of the event, was temporarily halted as authorities focused on containing the elephant and ensuring the safety of the attendees.

Uttoly Raman, a seasoned elephant known for his



calm demeanour, was part of the Thiruvambady Devaswom's elephant squad, which traditionally participates in the grand procession during the Pooram festival. Witnesses reported that the animal appeared agitated, though the reasons for the sudden outburst remain unclear. Experts have suggested that loud noises from the fireworks, a dense crowd, and the intense pressure of the procession may have contributed to the elephant's

unexpected behaviour.

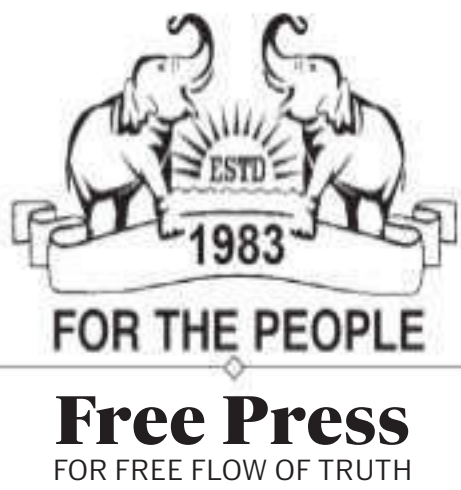
The injured were quickly taken to nearby hospitals for treatment, with some suffering minor to moderate injuries, while others sustained more serious trauma. Local authorities confirmed that the elephant was safely restrained by the Elephant Squad, which consists of experienced handlers skilled in managing animals in such situations.

Uttoly Raman's aggressive behaviour has raised fresh

concerns over the safety measures surrounding elephants used in festivals. Elephants play a significant role in the cultural and religious life of Kerala, especially during major events like Pooram. However, experts have long voiced concerns about the conditions under which these animals are kept and the risks involved in using them for such public spectacles.

The incident has reignited the debate over the treatment of elephants in

festivals across Kerala. While they are considered sacred and are revered in the state's religious traditions, the practice of parading elephants during major festivals has faced growing criticism. Animal rights activists argue that the loud noises, overcrowding, and extended hours of work cause significant stress to the elephants, potentially leading to dangerous situations like the one that occurred during Thrissur Pooram.



Action, reaction & a lesson

The destruction of nine terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK) by India on Wednesday has once again demonstrated Delhi's firm commitment to fight terrorism on its soil and act against those who target Indians. The Indian action came in response to the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam in Kashmir, in which 26 innocent tourists were brutally killed by operatives of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). The military action, codenamed Operation Sindoor, symbolising the sacred vermilion of a married Hindu woman, was a signal to those widows who saw their husbands being killed in front of their eyes and also to Pakistan that the Indian government will punish those responsible for their killing. The military action, however, avoided targeting civilians and Pakistan's military installations, making it clear that India does not want to encourage a wider conflict.

In a pre-dawn, tri-service coordinated action called Operation Sindoor, the armed forces launched 24 missiles against precise terrorists' locations in Pakistan and territories under its control to demolish the camps. Nearly 70 terrorists were reportedly killed in the missile attack. The entire operation lasted less than 25 minutes. Most of the dead were members of the terrorist organisations Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohamed, who have been responsible for targeting Indian assets and citizens over the years. The action against Pakistan came amid calls for restraint from key world leaders. India's decision to go ahead with its objective, ignoring such calls, indicates that despite its respect for global opinion, its primary responsibility was the safety and security of its people.

India waited for nearly two weeks, informing world leaders about Pakistan's complicity and its pursuance of cross-border terrorism as a foreign policy tool against India. It hoped Islamabad would punish the perpetrators and assure Delhi it would not encourage such acts in future by taking visible action in dismantling its terrorist infrastructures. Instead, Pakistan denied its involvement and attacked India for creating a war hysteria between the two countries while playing to the outside world's apprehension that an India-Pakistan armed conflict can deteriorate to a nuclear conflagration. This left India with little choice but to take action against the terrorists and their backers in Pakistan. India also had credible intelligence that Pakistan was gathering more terrorists at the camps to carry out similar attacks in Kashmir and other parts of India. The action was, therefore, both pre-emptive and punishing to those involved in the Pahalgam attack.

The Indian foreign minister S. Jaishankar has briefed the leaders of the United States, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Russia. The Iranian foreign minister Seyed Abbas Aragachi, who arrived in Delhi on Wednesday, was briefed by the Indian foreign minister. Besides, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also discussed the evolving situation with leaders of the five countries in the past few days.

The death of the 26 civilians was the largest number of civilian casualties since the November 26, 2008, attacks in Mumbai. The brutal killing of the innocent tourists in front of their family was clearly driven by the objectives of disrupting tourism, the mainstay of the local economy, and derailing the normalcy that was being restored in the Union Territory through development and growth.

Last year, over 23 million tourists from different parts of India visited Jammu and Kashmir, in addition to about 40,000 foreigners. The killing of the tourists was a signal to the rest of India that the area was not safe for visiting. Another objective was to tell the world that despite India's claim, Jammu and Kashmir remained a disturbed area and local people were desperate to seek independence from Indian rule. The aim was to ensure the region remained a fertile ground for continued cross-border terrorism from Pakistan by keeping it backward and disturbed. The attack was also driven by an objective to provoke communal violence in Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of India. However, because of the government and the people, such designs were foiled.

A group called the Resistance Front (TRF) claimed responsibility for the attack. However, it was a front for the LeT, a UN-proscribed Pakistani terrorist group. The Indian investigation teams had also found, through communication nodes of terrorists and other evidence after the Pahalgam attack, their link to Pakistan.

India must continue to exert pressure on Pakistan at the international stage through sustained campaigning. Pakistan has a long tradition of indulging in cross-border terrorism against India and has a reputation for being a safe haven for terrorists from around the world. It has wilfully misled the world leaders at international forums, like the Financial Action Task Force, about harbouring terrorists. India should also maintain economic pressure on Pakistan. Credit agency Moody says Pakistan's IMF loan in the future could be affected if it engages in a long war.

A long war is not desirable, but world opinion must be against Pakistan to force it to give up its policy of using terrorism as a tool against its neighbour. Otherwise, India could come up with a much stronger response against Pakistan in future.



Neighbourly Eye

K C SINGH

Two weeks after the Pahalgam terror attack, India finally retaliated by launching air attacks against 9 targets. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, in his press statement, emphasised India choosing non-military targets linked to Pakistan's terror machine.

Since India's 2019 Balakot attack, after the Pulwama suicide bombing of Indian paramilitary personnel, Delhi assumed that Pakistan had been finally deterred from sponsoring terrorism. The abrogation of Article 370 and the division and downgrading of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories, followed by an extended President's rule, fanned Indian complacency that terrorism stood defeated.

These smug conclusions rested on two flawed presumptions. One, the conclusion that an economically beleaguered Pakistan was preoccupied with domestic political instability and terrorism emanating from Balochistan and Afghanistan; and two, that a weakening Pakistani state meant its army was also handicapped. However, that was never so, as China props up Pakistan as a

counterweight to India in South Asia. Pakistan, if anything, has upgraded its air force and army. With India allocating resources to counter China across the Line of Actual Control, its residual military resources do not greatly outweigh those of Pakistan, except in the naval domain.

Before Pahalgam, multiple warning signs were aflutter that some mischief could be expected from the Pakistan army. Pakistan had blamed India and Afghanistan for the March hijacking of a train by militants of the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA). Then came the completely unhinged public speech by army chief General Asim Munir, reviving the discarded 2-nation theory, which died when Bangladesh was created in 1972. His terming "Kashmir" as Pakistan's "jugular vein" indicated that they were again preparing to mainstream internationally the Kashmir issue. The general having conspired to detain mass leader Imran Khan indefinitely, the Sharif government is his puppet. The director general of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has just been also designated as the National Security Advisor. This means the army now has its representative directly ad-

vising the cabinet. All pretences of civil control over the military are jettisoned.

On the Indian side, General Munir correctly assumed that a BJP-led government would not but retaliate after the brutal, communal and close-quarter killing of 26 males. The Pakistani army is generally good at tactical surprise, like in the case of the Kargil intrusion. They lack strategic perception of how their antagonist may react. They rely on the nuclear bluff to stymie India from broadening retaliation. The Modi government, like that of Vajpayee in 1999, has called the Pakistani bluff. This time the targets include not only most training camps of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir but also their declared headquarters at Muridke and Bahawalpur, respectively.

In both places, the terror outfits have created charitable institutions, providing education and healthcare. That earns them public goodwill, facilitates recruitment and enables fund collection abroad, especially in the Gulf. The facade also becomes a protective shield against scrutiny of their real motives and actions. India came

close to attacking Muridke after the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai, but the US was still in Afghanistan and hunting for Osama bin Laden. Their pressure and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's pacifist instincts held India back. India chose instead to use the international route to name and shame Pakistan. The UN Security Council's listing of global terrorists was also employed, despite Chinese foot-dragging. That process has just obtained for India the custody of Tahawwur Rana, co-conspirator with David Headley. That may also be a motivating factor for the Pakistan army's urgency to create a major distraction, as his revelations will uncover ISI's direct complicity in 26/11.

In 2019, President Donald Trump played a vital role in de-escalating the situation quickly. In his present incarnation, he is totally enmeshed in the global trade chaos that he has churned. He also has Ukraine and Gaza conflicts already choking his claimed diplomatic prowess. China, for the same reason, may actually be against the South Asian conflict escalating. It needs India as a potential market, probably assuming that Trump will not easily back off.

What then can happen next? Pakistan will certainly retaliate. It can be mostly symbolic, like in 2019, with LoC firing already taking a toll. Its problem is target selection. India does not have terrorist training camps breeding anti-Pakistan militancy. It has also seen India beginning to weaponise river waters, which is an existential threat. If it targets military facilities, then escalation is inevitable. If it goes after the run-of-river projects on Chenab and Jhelum, that too would cross India's red lines.

Pakistani generals lose jobs after tactical mistakes. President Pervez Musharraf's coup followed an attempt to replace him. Unfortunately, with the degradation of the position of America as an arbiter in such situations, the off-ramps look shaky. Pakistan has to back off from resumed sponsorship of terror against India. India needs to restore deterrence. But this time, unlike in 2019, India also needs, once calm returns, to open dialogue with Pakistan. Shutting all doors has proven as risky as appeasement. Diplomacy must find a middle path.

KC Singh is former secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.



HerStory

DEEPA GAHLOT

In a comic book populated mainly by male superheroes, Catwoman is an intriguing character—both vampish and heroic. She made her debut in 1940 and has held her mystique for 85 years.

Catwoman was ranked 11th on Image Game Network's list of the Top 100 Comic Book Villains of All Time, and 51st on Wizard magazine's 100 Greatest Villains of All Time list; she was ranked 20th on IGN's Top 100 Comic Book Heroes of All Time list. This not only marks her popularity but also indicates a complexity to her character, not usually granted to comic book females.

Created by Bill Finger and Bob Kane, The Cat appeared in the first Batman comic in 1940 and went on to become one of his rogues' gallery of adversaries. Interestingly, she was also his love interest. Of course, there was sexism built into the comic book universe aimed at adolescent males.

Catwoman, the alter ego of Selina Kyle, was drawn dressed in a skintight bodysuit and given a bullwhip as a weapon. In those modest times, the sexual connotations of her slinky, whip-wielding persona were not lost on anyone, and the character was forced by the Comics Code Authority to vanish from 1954 to 1966, in keeping

with the rules regarding the portrayal of women in comic books. The code was eventually dropped, and Catwoman returned.

Inspired by Bollywood femme fatales like Jean Harlow and Hedy Lamarr, Kane and Finger wanted to give their comic book sex appeal (though the catsuit came much later) and also appeal to female readers—according to Bob Kane's book *Batman And Me* (1989), they wanted to give Batman a "friendly foe who committed crimes but was also a romantic interest in Batman's rather sterile life."

Why a cat? He wrote, "I felt that women were feline creatures and men were more like dogs. While dogs are faithful and friendly, cats are cool, detached, and unreliable. I felt much warmer with dogs around me—cats are as hard to understand as women are. Men feel more sure of themselves with a male friend than a woman. You always need to keep women at arm's length. We don't want anyone taking over our souls, and women have a habit of doing that. So there's a love-resentment thing with women. I guess women will feel that I'm being chauvinistic to speak this way, but I do feel that I've had better relationships with male friends than women. With women, once the romance is over, somehow they never remain my friends."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

News Leak

TV channels reveal strategic details about terror response, unintentionally helping Pakistan. Over-sharing for TRPs compromises national security. Media must balance reporting with discretion, especially during sensitive operations.

— Lalit Dube, Ratlam

Overcoming Fear

Fear arises from self-imposed limitations. Empathy alone can't overcome it; facing and conquering obstacles can. Focusing on self-growth and encouraging others fosters courage. If we gain comfort from others' fears, it signifies a lack of self-love. As W. Clement Stone said, "Thinking will not overcome fear, but action will." Growth comes from overcoming our limits.

Akshara Trivedi, Ujjain

Delivery Magic

Blinkit, the popular delivery app, has launched in Dewas, and for senior citizens like me, it feels like technological magic. You

place a grocery order on your phone, and—voilà—it's at your doorstep in minutes. I tested the service myself to see if it lived up to the ad-hype, and it truly did. The convenience is unmatched, especially for those of us who may struggle with daily market runs. It's heartening to see technology making life easier and safer, especially post-pandemic. What's next? With the current pace of innovation, maybe the future holds even more wonders—perhaps we'll soon graduate from Blinkit to "Thinkit," where a thought alone could trigger a delivery. Sounds like science fiction today, but so did grocery apps once. This isn't just about shopping—it's a glimpse into how human convenience and artificial intelligence might soon merge in ways we've only dreamed of.

Avinash Godbole, Dewas

AI Surveillance

AI in public spaces threatens privacy. Facial recognition and data track-



Man's Conflict with the Cheetah

The authorities must segregate residential areas from forest land using unscalable electric fences fitted with CC cameras and electronic buzzers. Floodlights and drones, along with armed guards, should be used to keep round-the-clock vigilance so that people don't trespass into the protected area. Additionally, technology by way of microchips, radio collars and leg bands should be used to stop wild animals and birds from being poached.

Peter Castellino

ing risk misuse. Without consent and laws, surveillance may compromise civil liberties. Regulations must ensure ethical use, balancing security with rights.

— Insiya Raj, Ujjain

Tariff Trouble

Hollywood's creativity is stifled by rising tariffs. Overseas shoots face cost hikes, limiting authentic settings. Creativity can't be contained in studios. India's innovation-driven industry



Michelle Pfeiffer as Catwoman. The character made its debut in 1940.

The character underwent many dramatic changes in her journey, and in 1993, Catwoman was given her first own comic series, with Jim Balent as the main writer with others, who gave her a backstory as a teenage runaway, her time in a juvenile detention home, a female sidekick and her training with another DC Comics character, Ted 'Wildcat' Grant.

Inevitably, the feminist potential of the character was noted, and dozens of magazine articles, books and papers were written on her. There is also criticism of the hypersexualized portrayal and the clichéd negative stereotyping of

women as cats. Gloria Steinem commented that Catwoman "is a feminist superhero with a storyline and transformation of her own—plus class consciousness, a girl buddy, equal skills with the Batman equipment and an apartment of her own."

Making an appearance on television in 1966, she was played by the six-foot tall Julie Newmar in a black Lurex catsuit with cat ears and a low-slung golden belt. Catwoman, says Julie Newmar, quoted in a piece by Allison Keyes in npr.org, is comprised of the "most delicious" human traits—determined, calculating, and wise. And

that catsuit? "You feel more power," she said, "You're both hidden and exposed at the same time. You're hidden by the black; you're exposed by the tightness of the outfit. You have on these high heels, long nails, and then your eyelashes—your hair!"

Catwoman has been played by many actresses over the years, among them Lee Meriwether in *Batman* (1966), Michelle Pfeiffer in *Batman Returns* (1992), Halle Berry in *Catwoman* (2004), Anne Hathaway in *The Dark Knight Rises* (2012), and Zoe Kravitz in *The Batman* (2022). On television, she has been played by Julie Newmar, Eartha Kitt, Carmen Bicondova and Lili Simmons. All of them have interpreted the character in their own way.

Suzanne Colon, author of *Catwoman: The Life and Times of Feline Fatale*, wrote, "This was one of the first female characters we saw on television that really spoke to empowerment. Not only empowerment; a proto-feminism that was very sexy and pretty and female, and yet very take-charge. This woman had her own gang of men who wore little cat ears... to please her." Any woman who can manage that is definitely a superhero!

Deepa Gahlot is a Mumbai-based columnist, critic and author.

shows budget isn't everything. Trump must rethink the policy for cinema's sake.

—Dev Krishna Nigam, Ujjain

Trump Theatre

President Trump's 100% tariffs on non-Hollywood films raise eyebrows globally. Ironically, the world watches his own political drama unfold daily—for free. Titles like *The Shivering Tariffs* and *Insanity Decisions* outdo fiction. Tariffs aside, Trump's actions offer a surreal spectacle unlike any film.

—Vinod Akolkar, Dewas

Summit Diplomacy

PM Modi attended the 6th BIMSTEC Summit in Thailand, focusing on maritime security, climate change, and infrastructure ties. India and Thailand signed a strategic partnership to boost defense and regional connectivity, emphasizing cooperation in disaster management and anti-trafficking.

—Dev Krishna Nigam, Ujjain

Amateur Edge

Amateurs explain better because they recall learning struggles, use simple language, and are patient. Unlike experts, they don't assume prior knowledge. Their friendly, clear approach makes concepts easier to grasp, often making them more effective teachers.

—Arpita Singh, Ujjain

Grandma's tales

Memories of my grandmother's bedtime stories may have faded, but the ones I tell my grandchildren remain fresh. New stories are created daily, yet my grandson always asks for the same one, perhaps because it touches a deep chord of bonding. Indian tales, deeply tied to family relationships and cultural identity, strengthen emotional bonds and reflect collectivist values. They emphasise humility, selflessness, and spiritual wisdom, contrasting with the individualism seen in modern tales.

R. Narayanan

Briefs

SAN DIEGO
5 booked after migrant boat capsizes

Federal officials filed charges Tuesday against five people in connection to a boat carrying migrants that capsized a day earlier off San Diego's Pacific coast, killing three people, including a 14-year-old boy from India. The boy's 10-year-old sister is still missing at sea and is presumed dead, the US Attorney's Office in San Diego said in a statement. Their parents were among four people who were injured and taken to the hospital, including the father, who is in a coma. The other two killed were from Mexico, including an 18-year-old boy and another man, according to the Mexican consulate.

TOKYO
Man stabs 2 at subway station

A man with a knife slashed two passengers on a train stopping at a Tokyo subway station during the evening rush on Wednesday, and their injuries were not believed to be life-threatening, Japanese police and media reported. The 43-year-old suspect was arrested at the scene on suspicion of attempted murder, Tokyo's metropolitan police said. The suspect's motives and other details were not immediately known.

ESCALATING WAR | Schools sheltering hundreds of displaced Palestinians attacked as the conflict enters its 20th month

59 killed in Gaza as Israel set to ramp up offensive

Agencies
GAZA STRIP

Israeli strikes across Gaza killed at least 59 people, including women and children, hospital officials said Wednesday, as Israel prepares to ramp up its campaign against Hamas in a devastating war now entering its 20th month.

The strikes included one attack on Tuesday night on a school sheltering hundreds of displaced Palestinians, which killed 27 people, officials from the Al-Aqsa Hospital said, including nine women and three children. It was the fifth time since the war began that the school in central Gaza has been struck.

An early morning strike on another school turned shelter in Gaza City killed 16 people, according to officials at Al-Ahli Hospital, while strikes on targets in other areas killed at least 16 others.

A large column of smoke rose and fires pierced the dark skies above the school shelter in Bureij, a built-up urban refugee camp. Paramedics and rescuers rushed to pull people out from the blaze.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment on the strikes. Israel blames Hamas for the death toll because it operates from civilian infrastructure, including schools.

The new bloodshed comes days after Israel approved a



'Only 21 hostages alive': Trump draws Israel' ire

The war began when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking about 250 hostages. Israel's offensive has killed more than 52,000 people in Gaza, many of them women and children, according to Palestinian health officials. The officials do not distinguish between combatants and civilians in their count.

Trump on Tuesday

stunned many in Israel when he declared that only 21 of the 59 hostages remaining in Gaza are still alive. Israel insists that figure stands at 24, although an Israeli official said there was "serious concern" for the lives of three captives. The official said there has been no sign of life from those three, whom the official did not identify.

He said that until there is

evidence proving otherwise, the three are considered to be alive.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive details related to the war, said the families of the captives were updated on those developments.

Hamas says it is prepared to release all of the hostages for an end to the war and a long term truce with Israel.

of thousands of reserve soldiers to carry out the plan. Israel says the plan will be gradual and will not be implemented until after US President Donald Trump wraps up his visit to the region later this month.

Any escalation of fighting would likely drive up the

death toll. And with Israel already controlling some 50% of Gaza, increasing its hold on the territory, for an indefinite amount of time, could open up the potential for a military occupation, which would raise questions about how Israel plans to have the territory governed.

Putin completes 25 yrs in Russia hot seat and still going strong

Agencies
MOSCOW

Exactly 25 years ago on May 7, an obscure ex-KGB colonel Vladimir Putin -- with little public exposure as deputy mayor of St Petersburg -- took the oath of the highest office in the post-Communist Russia.

A quarter century later, Putin, 72, still remains the most popular politician in Russia, as was evident by last year's election, which Putin won with 88.48 per cent of votes polled.

In a TV documentary shown on Sunday, he, however, said that he was looking for a successor, but it was not in his power as the successor would have to seek a popular vote in the elections with strong rivals.

For Putin, it has been a 25-year journey that has come to coincide with Russia's journey in the 21st century.

His predecessor Boris Yeltsin, Russia's first directly elected president, had resigned due to failing health on the backdrop of political instability, financial and economic, militancy in the Northern Caucasus and a spate of terrorist attacks. He handed Putin, the incumbent prime minister of the country, the hot Kremlin seat on New Year's Eve, December 31, 1999. Putin was elected on March 26, 2000, bagging 53 per cent votes by beating Communist rival Gennady Zyuganov and liberal Yabloko block leader Grigory Yavlinsky in "reasonably free and fair" polls, according to a declassified US



Biden's 'appeasement' dig at Trump

London: Joe Biden said in his first post-presidential interview that President Donald Trump's pressure on Ukraine to give up territory to Russia amounts to "modern-day appeasement," a historically fraught term that refers to a failed effort to stop the Nazis from annexing land in Europe in the 1930s. Biden told BBC Radio 4s "Today" program in remarks aired on Wednesday that Trump's statements about acquiring Panama, Greenland and Canada have bred distrust in Europe. He also said it was a "difficult decision" to leave the US presidential race in 2024.

Russian attack kills 2 in Ukraine

Kyiv: Russia launched a ballistic missile and a barrage of drones at Ukraine's capital before dawn on Wednesday, killing at least two people in apartment buildings, Ukrainian officials said. Eight people were also wounded in the attack, including four children, the Kyiv City Military Administration said in a post on Telegram. The attack came before Russia's planned unilateral 72-hour ceasefire in the more than three-year war to coincide with celebrations in Moscow marking Victory Day in World War II. The US has proposed a 30-day ceasefire, which Ukraine has accepted, but the Kremlin has held out for ceasefire terms more to its liking.

Embassy cable from Moscow in 2024.

The way Putin resolutely fought Chechen militancy, assured timely pensions to the most vulnerable section of society, revived manufacturing in the country, generating employment, ensured a sec-

ond term with almost 72 per cent votes.

Due to constitutional restraint of two four-year consecutive terms, he stepped aside and took over the job of prime minister under President Dmitry Medvedev for four years.

US loses fighter jet as landing on aircraft carrier goes awry

Agencies
DUBAI

An F/A-18 fighter jet landing on the USS Harry S Truman aircraft carrier in the Red Sea went overboard, forcing its two pilots to eject, a defence official told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The incident Tuesday marks the latest mishap to mar the deployment of the Truman, which has been essential in the airstrike campaign by the United States against Yemen's Houthi rebels.

On Tuesday, US President Donald Trump and Oman's foreign minister both said that a ceasefire had been reached with the Houthis, who would no longer target ships in the Red Sea corridor - something not immediately acknowledged by the rebels.

Meanwhile, the Houthis continue to assess the damage after daytime Israeli airstrikes targeted Yemen's rebel-held capital of Sanaa.

The F/A-18 Super Hornet landed on the Truman after a



flight, but "the arrestment failed," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorised to speak publicly about the incident now under investigation.

"Arrestment" refers to the hook system used by aircraft landing on carriers, which catches steel wire ropes on the flight deck. It remains unclear what part of the system failed.

The two pilots on board were later rescued by a helicopter and suffered minor injuries in the incident, the official added. No one on the flight deck was hurt.

Tuesday's incident was the latest to see the Navy lose an F/A-18, which cost about \$60 million. In April, another F/A-18 fighter jet slipped off the hangar deck of the Truman and fell into the Red Sea. The crew members who were in the pilot seat of the Super Hornet and on the small towing tractor both jumped away.

In December, the guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg mistakenly shot down an F/A-18 after ships earlier shot down multiple Houthi drones and an anti-ship cruise missile launched by the rebels. Both aviators in that incident also survived.

US, China officials to meet in Switzerland for tariff negotiations

Agencies
WASHINGTON

Top US officials are set to meet with a high-level Chinese delegation this weekend in Switzerland, the administration announced Tuesday, in the first major talks between the two nations since President Donald Trump sparked a trade war with stiff tariffs on imports.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and trade representative Jamieens Greer will meet with their counterparts in Geneva in the most-senior known conversations between the two countries in months. It comes amid growing US market worry over the impact of the tariffs on the prices and supply of consumer goods.

Trump had claimed previously that the US and China were holding negotiations on lowering tariffs, which Beijing has denied, saying

Trump must first lower his stiff tariffs. Bessent earlier Tuesday testified to a House committee that the US and China "have not engaged in negotiations" but "as early as this week," the US will be announcing trade deals with some of the US' largest trading partners.

The Chinese Commerce Ministry on Tuesday confirmed the meeting between the vice premier and Bessent in Switzerland.

"The Chinese side carefully evaluated the information from the US side and decided to agree to have contact with the US side after fully considering global expectations, Chinese interests and calls from US businesses and consumers," said a ministry spokesperson.

Bessent and Greer also plan to meet with Swiss President Karin Keller-Sutter, according to readouts from their respective offices.

Auction of Buddha gems stalled after India threats

Agencies
HONG KONG

Sotheby's on Wednesday postponed an auction of jewels associated with Buddha's remains after the Indian government opposed the sale and demanded it be halted.

The gems for auction were found buried together in reliquaries with the corporeal relics of the historical Buddha and discovered in northern India in 1898, the auction house said. They dated back to around 240-200 BC, it said.

But India's Ministry of Culture said in a Facebook post on Tuesday it had issued a legal notice to Sotheby's Hong Kong to demand the immediate halt of the sale, accusing the auction of violating "Indian laws, international norms and UN conventions." In its letter to Sotheby's Hong Kong dated Monday, posted on Facebook, it said the auction involves sacred Buddhist relics that constitute the inalienable religious and cultural heritage of India and the global Buddhist community. It demanded the repatriation of the relics to the Indian government and a public apology from the auction house and Chris Peppé.

Peppé is a great-grandson of British William Peppé, who excavated the relics.

The Indian government warned in the letter that failure to comply would result in legal actions.

Canadian PM says talks with Trump constructive despite no tariffs lifting



Agencies
OTTAWA

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said that he had wide-ranging and constructive discussions with US President Donald Trump in the White House, although the two leaders disagreed on tariffs lifting and the "51st state," according to the live broadcast of CBC News.

Giving a post-meeting news conference in Washington, Carney said that he and Trump agreed to have further conversations in the coming weeks and meet again in person at the G7 summit in Kananaskis, Alberta, Xinhua news agency reported.

Carney said he told Trump it's "not useful" to repeat the 51st state idea, adding that Trump is the president who is going to say whatever he wants. "He understands that we are having a negotiation between sovereign nations," said Carney.

Responding to the question if he is heading back to Ottawa with any tangible

progress on ending the trade war, Carney said they had some very specific things to follow up on and build out from that.

"These are the discussions you have when you're looking to find solutions," he said.

While Trump made it clear that the tariffs, especially those on the auto sector, would stay in place, Carney said, "We'll see."

Canadian workers and suppliers in auto plant towns are worried that the longer the tariff dispute goes on, the less likely those finished cars are to be sold, reported CBC News.

"If he (Trump) actually achieves shutting down production in Canada and Mexico, it doesn't mean he's going to get new production in the US," Flavio Volpe, president of Canada's Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association, was quoted as saying.

Volpe said he hopes Carney will announce further meetings with Trump. "I want to know that we've set a date for the next game."

Columbia shows door to 180 after Trump cuts grants

Agencies
NEW YORK

Columbia University said Tuesday that it will be laying off nearly 180 staffers in response to President Donald Trump's decision to cancel \$400 million in funding over the Manhattan college's handling of student protests against the war in Gaza.

Those receiving non-renewal or termination notices Tuesday represent about 20% of the employees funded in some manner by the terminated federal grants, the university said in a statement Tuesday.

"We have had to make deliberate, considered decisions about the allocation of our financial resources," the



university said. "Those decisions also impact our greatest resource, our people. We understand this news will be

hard." University spokesperson Jessica Murphy declined to say whether more layoffs were expected, but said Columbia is taking a range of steps to create financial flexibility, including maintaining current salary levels and offering voluntary retirement incentives.

Research will also be scaled back, with some departments

winding down studies and others maintaining some level of research.

The layoffs, while expected, were "dispiriting" for faculty, said Marcel Agueros, secretary of Columbia's chapter of the American Association of University Professors, which has filed a federal lawsuit against the Trump administration.

Merz in France, Poland to put up united front in trade war

Agencies
BERLIN

Friedrich Merz made his world-affairs debut Wednesday as Germany's new chancellor, with plans to immediately team up with allies France and Poland to present a united European front on support for Ukraine and against US President Donald Trump's trade war.

The new pairing of Merz and French President Emmanuel Macron - both

firm believers in the European Union - could help stiffen resistance from the 27-nation bloc against pressure from Trump and against Russia's continuing war in Ukraine.

With the EU's largest economies and populations, the tandem of Germany and France has long underpinned the 27-nation bloc but lost some of its vigour in recent months as leaders in both countries wrestled with domestic issues.

Merz and Macron are hoping to give the relationship fresh impetus at a crucial time, with Russian President Vladimir Putin both exerting pressure on the EU, forcing it to rethink its own security.

Merz's trips come the day after his historic defeat in the first round of voting in the German parliament. No other postwar candidate for German chancellor has failed to win on the first ballot. He won in the second round.

Agencies
VATICAN CITY

With all the pomp, drama and solemnity that the Catholic Church can muster, 133 cardinals on Wednesday began centuries-old rituals to elect a successor to Pope Francis, celebrating a morning Mass before opening the most geographically diverse conclave in the faith's 2,000-year history.

The dean of the College of Cardinals, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, presided over the service, urging the voters to set aside all personal interests

and find a pope who prizes unity. The world today needs a leader who can awaken consciences, he said.

From the altar of St Peter's Basilica, Re prayed that the cardinals can agree "on the pope that our time needs," as he offered a final set of marching orders before they enter the Sistine Chapel later Wednesday to begin the secret voting.

Hailing from 70 countries, the cardinals are being sequestered from the outside world, their cellphones surrendered, and airwaves



around the Vatican jammed to prevent all communications until they find a new leader for the 1.4 billion-member church.

Francis named 108 of the

133 "princes of the church," choosing many pastors in his image from far-flung countries like Mongolia, Sweden and Tonga that had never had a cardinal before.

His decision to surpass the usual limit of 120 cardinal electors and include younger ones from the "global south" - often marginalized countries with lower economic clout - has injected an unusual degree of uncertainty in a process that is always full of mystery and suspense, with smoke signals telling the world if a pope has been elected or not.

Many cardinals hadn't met one another until last week and lamented they needed more time to get to know each another.

Squash's future roars to life in city



केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking

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Circle Office: Plot No. 04, PSP Area, Near AIIMS, Saket Nagar, Circle Office, Bhopal
Regional Office: Omega Tower, 3rd Floor, 32 Mechanic Nagar, Bhamori, Indore, Phone.: 7049919126



सिंडिकेट Syndicate

E-AUCTION NOTICE

SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002 (ONLINE AUCTION) UNDER RULES 8(6) & (9) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the immovable properties described herein, taken possession under the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, will be sold through e-auction on the following terms & conditions. E auction arranged by the service provider **PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd., <https://baanknet.com/>**

S. No.	Branch Name & Mobile No.	Name of Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers & Guarantors	Description of properties	Area	Possession Type	Type of Property	(₹) Outstanding Amount	Reserve Price (Rs.) EMD	Date/ Time of e-Auction*
1.	Barwaha Branch 70499 19140	Deepak Singh Rathore S/o Kailash and Rajesh Sharma S/o Rameshchandra	Residential House at North Part of Plot No. 27, Ahilyapura, Ward No. 03, Barwaha, Kharagone (M.P.) 451115. Owner: Deepak Singh Rathore, Boundaries: North: Road, South: Seller's House, East: House of Shobharam Malakar, West: House of Shyam Bhai	1146.18 Sq.ft.	Symbolic Possession	House	4,40,275.21 + interest & other charges due from 24.05.2024	Rs. 16,20,000 Rs. 1,62,000	23.05.2025 12.00 PM to 2.00 PM (With unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each)
2.	Mulitai Branch 86023 38676	Satyaphoola Deshmukh W/o Prakash Deshmukh, Prakash Deshmukh S/o Krishnarao Deshmukh and M/s Om Sairam Auto Deal Proprietor: Prakash Deshmukh	Land and Building, Survey No. 268/16, P. H. No. 80, Village Prabhat Pattan, Tehsil Mulitai, Distt. Betul (M.P.) 460665. Owner: Satyaphoola Deshmukh W/o Prakash Deshmukh, Boundaries: North: Land of Purshottam, South: 15 Feet Kaccha Road, East: Land of Madhu Khade, West: Land of Sunanda	1140 Sq.ft.	Symbolic Possession	House	15,36,012.56 + interest & other charges due from 11.08.2024	Rs. 15,47,000 Rs. 1,54,700	23.05.2025 12.00 PM to 2.00 PM (With unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each)
3.	Rajwada Chowk Branch, Indore 94254 00366	M/s Sai Enterprises, Prop. Sagar Sharma and Sagar Sharma S/o Shyam Sharma	Flat No. 104, First Floor, Milan Pride, Plot No. A-8, Shreeji Valley, Bicholi Mardana, Indore (M.P.) 452001. Owner: Sagar Sharma, Boundaries: North: Flat No. 103, South: Plot No. A-9, East: Common Passage, West: Road	1030 Sq.ft.	Physical Possession	Flat	29,69,541.36 + interest & other charges due from 14.06.2024	Rs. 14,85,000 Rs. 1,48,500	23.05.2025 12.00 PM to 2.00 PM (With unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each)
4.	Barwani Branch 89899 89114	Priyanka Gupta W/o Hari Gupta, Hari Gupta S/o Girdharilal Gupta, M/S Shree Hari Traders, Prop. Mrs. Priyanka Gupta, Priyanka Gupta W/o Hari Gupta	Residential House at Plot No. 76-B, Sri Krishna Estate Colony, Block A, Badgaon, Patwari Halka No. 10, Barwani (M.P.) 451551. Owner: Priyanka Gupta W/o Hari Gupta, Boundaries: North: Remaining Part 76-B, South: Plot No. 75, East: Colony Road, West: Plot No. 34	500 Sq.ft.	Symbolic Possession	House	12,25,394.28 + interest & other charges due from 01.07.2024	Rs. 8,34,000 Rs. 83,400	23.05.2025 12.00 PM to 2.00 PM (With unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each)
5.	Burhanpur Branch 94253 26221	M/s Sanjay Traders Prop: Jagdish Chandra Solanki and Jagdish Chandra Solanki S/o Navneet Solanki	Godown at Plot No. 40/2, Ward No. 03, Block No. 54, Shikharpura Tehsil and District Burhanpur (M.P.) 450331. Owner: Jagdish Chandra Solanki, Boundaries: North: Godown No. 08, South: Godown No. 10, East: Common Passage, West: Property Belongs to PWD	275 Sq.ft.	Symbolic Possession	Godown	6,86,313.24 + interest & other charges due from 02.05.2024	Rs. 5,39,000 Rs. 53,900	23.05.2025 12.00 PM to 2.00 PM (With unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each)

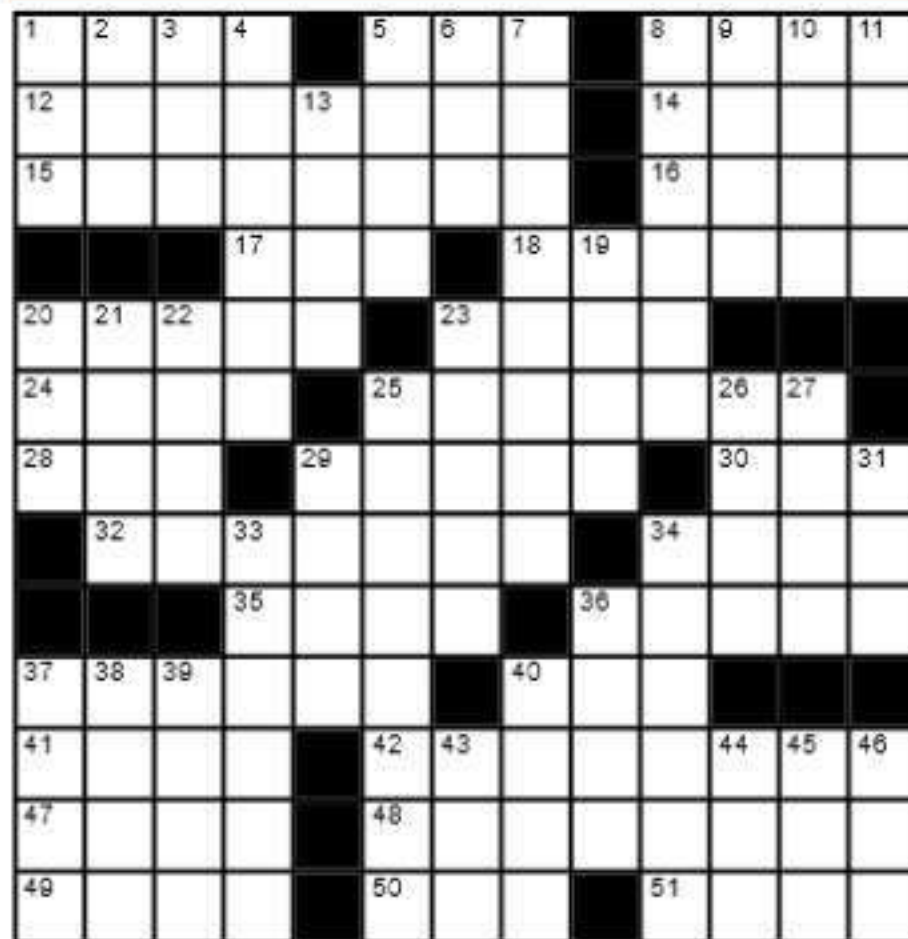
TERMS & CONDITIONS: The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the security interest (enforcement) rules 2002 and to the following conditions:

(1) The property will be sold in "as is where is and as is what is" basis including encumbrances, if any. There is no encumbrance to the knowledge of the bank. **(2)** Auction/bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website <https://baanknet.com/>. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings. **(3)** The property can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer, on **22.05.2025 between 10.30 AM to 5 PM**. **(4)** The property will not be sold below the Reserve Price and the participating bidders may improve their offer further during auction process. **(5)** EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited by way of Demand draft in favour of **Authorized Officer, Canara Bank, Concerned Branch on or 22.05.2025 at 5.00 pm**. **(6)** Intending bidders shall hold a valid digital signature certificate and e-mail address. For details with regard to digital signature please contact the service provider **PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd., E-mail id: support.baanknet@psballiance.com, Contact No. 8291220220** Immediately on the same date of payment of the EMD amount the bidders shall approach the said service provider for obtaining digital signature (If not holding a valid digital signature). **(7)** After payment of the EMD amount, the intending bidders should submit a copy of the following documents/details on or before **22.05.2025 at 5.00 PM, to Canara Bank, Concerned Branch** by hand or by email. **(1)** Demand Draft/Pay order towards EMD amount. If paid through RTGS/NEFT, acknowledgment receipt thereof with UTR No. **(2)** Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However, successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the time of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount. **(3)** Bidders Name, Contact No. Address, E Mail Id. **(4)** Bidder's A/c details for online refund of EMD. **(8)** The intending bidders should register their names at portal <https://baanknet.com/> (mention the website address of service provider) and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E-auction from the service **PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd., E-mail id: support.baanknet@psballiance.com, Contact No. 8291220220** **(9)** EMD deposited by the unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded to them within 2 days of finalization of sale. The EMD shall not carry any interest. **(10)** Auction would commence at Reserve Price, as mentioned above. Bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of **Rs. 10000/- for Properties having reserve price upto 50.00 Lakh and Rs. 25000/- for properties having reserve price more than 50.00 Lakh**. The bidder who submits the highest bid (not below the Reserve price) on closure of 'Online' auction shall be declared as successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor. **(11)** The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on same day or next working day declaring him/her as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price within the period stated above, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited by the Authorised Officer without any notice and property shall forthwith be put up for sale again. **(12)** All charges for conveyance, stamp duty and registration charges etc., as applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only. **(13)** Authorised Officer reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the e-auction without assigning any reason thereof. **(14)** In case there are bidders who do not have access to the internet but interested in participating the e-auction, they can approach concerned Circle office or branch who as a facilitating centre shall make necessary arrangements. **(15)** For Further Details Contact **Canara Bank, Regional Office, Indore, Phone No.: 7049919126** **Special Instruction/Caution:** Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Canara Bank nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder or vendor in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as back-up, power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

Place : Indore, Date : 08.05.2025

Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

Crossword #1495



Across

- 1 Hairless
- 5 Sigh of contentment
- 8 In Greek mythology she was cup-bearer to the gods
- 12Way before time (3,5)
- 14Consumer
- 15Improved or bettered
- 16Hacienda room - "alas" anagram ?
- 17Might
- 18Outcome
- 20Important
- 23Des Moines is the capital of this U.S. state
- 24It's full form? (2,2)
- 25Vexed or enraged
- 28Calendar abbr.
- 29Rummier
- 30A Japanese copper coin
- 32Yehudi ____ : the famous violinist?
- 34South America's "ostrich"
- 35Between two ports
- 36Long for
- 37Ledger entries
- 40Clothing edge
- 41Gone sans permission
- 42Start
- 47Tennis legend Lacoste
- 48Disappears
- 49 ____ state of affairs: unfortunate circumstances (1,3)
- 50Ambulance person: abbr.
- 51Nav. readings

Down

- 1 British Thermal Unit, in short
- 2 Assoc. of Optical Practitioners
- 3 Laughing out loud, acronym?
- 4 Smaller moon of Mars
- 5 Showily pretentious
- 6 Alcoholic beverage
- 7 Lightest gas
- 8 Cavalry soldier
- 9 Jacob's twin brother
- 10As sound as a ____ ?
- 11Quod __ demonstrandum
- 13A long way off
- 19Large water jug
- 20Minimum, abbr.
- 21Very small particle
- 22Swing music
- 23Asian country
- 25A glue
- 26Bollywood's ____ Deol
- 27Horned animal
- 29Expel
- 31A Bobbsey twin
- 33Secured with brad
- 34Negligent or careless
- 36Himalayan myth
- 37Indian wrestling great ____ Singh
- 38Female sheep
- 39 ____ fide : real and genuine ?
- 40Innuendo or insinuation
- 43Vietnam, colloquially and in short ?
- 44American Helicopter Society
- 4520th letter of the alphabet
- 46The letter "S"

YOUR DAY By Vinayak Vishwas Karandikar



ARIES: Today is the day to study, enjoy family life, do business or travel. Expect expenditure on entertainment, businesses, education, vehicles or spouses. People in event management, the automobile industry, entertainment, art, and the travel industry will get success. A family function or travel with family is indicated. Some people may suffer from skin troubles, kidney problems or diabetes. Lucky no.: 3; Lucky colour: Yellow



TAURUS: You may travel today. Take care of your health. Expect expenditure on medical bills, travel or communication. People in art, advertising, entertainment, medicine, and banking will benefit. A dispute with your younger sibling or spouse is indicated. Some people may suffer from skin diseases, kidney issues or eye problems. Lucky no.: 8; Lucky colours: Black, Blue



GEMINI: Today is the day to enjoy, travel and spend. Expect expenditure on luxury items, vehicles, children or travel. People in art, entertainment, sports, and tourism will benefit. A picnic or a long journey with family is indicated. Some people may suffer from sexual problems or eye troubles. Lucky no.: 9



CANCER: It is a day to be with family. You might spend the time studying or enjoying the day. Expect expenditure on houses, vehicles or education. People in the automobile industry, art, entertainment, and education will benefit. You will enjoy decorating or renovating your house. Some people may suffer from diabetes or eye problems. Lucky no.: 6; Lucky colour: Pink



LEO: Today is the day to travel, spend and enjoy. Expect expenditure related to businesses, travel, communication or premium services. People in tourism, advertising, entertainment, art, and maintenance will benefit. A long journey or a picnic is indicated. Some people may suffer from knee pain or shoulder pain. Lucky no.: 2; Lucky colours: silver, white



VIRGO: Today is the day to earn, travel and study. Expect expenditure on education, travel or entertainment. People in entertainment, art, and tourism will benefit. A happy time with family members is indicated. Some people may suffer from eye problems, throat pain or skin diseases. Lucky no.: 5; Lucky colour: Green



LIBRA: Today physical and mental stress and loss are indicated for you, so take care. Expect expenditure on businesses, health, premium services or vehicles. People associated with entertainment, art, pubs, boarding and lodging, and the automobile industry will benefit. Illness of a family member is indicated. You may suffer from skin diseases, kidney issues, hernias



SCORPIO: Today is the day for expenditure, travel, business and enjoyment. Expect expenditure on luxury items, beauty products, entertainment or travel. People in art, entertainment, tourism, and the beauty industry will benefit. A long journey, picnic or tour with family is indicated. You may suffer from kidney problems, hernias or eye problems. Lucky no.: 3; Lucky colours: Yellow, Saffron



SAGITTARIUS: Today you may get your stuck money back. Expect expenditure on health, houses, vehicles or premium services. People in the automobile industry, entertainment, art, and the medical field will get success. Disputes with family members are indicated. Some people may suffer from stomach pain, kidney issues or sexual problems. Lucky no.: 1; Lucky colour: Orange



CAPRICORN: Today is the day for enjoyment, business, travel and communication. Expect expenditure on businesses, children or entertainment. People in art, entertainment, sports, advertisement, and event management will get success. Your married and love lives will be romantic. It is time to see movies and plays and attend parties. Lucky no.: 6; Lucky colour: Pink



AQUARIUS: Today is the day to study and travel. Expect expenditure related to education, interior decoration, vehicles or travel. People in art, education, interior decoration, architecture, and the automobile industry will benefit. A get-together or a party is expected in your house. Some people may suffer from indigestion or chest pains. Lucky no.: 7; Lucky colour: Grey



PISCES: Today loss is indicated, so act wisely. Expect expenditure on children, premium services, maintenance or health. People working in liquor shops, bars, and pubs, or those associated with fields like art, entertainment, and insurance will benefit. A family dispute is indicated, so try to avoid it. Some people may suffer from back pain, shoulder pain or kidney problems.

FPJ - SUDOKU - 386

	4		8			6	1	
			4	7	9			5
	9			5			2	
4	5	7					6	
	1			6				7
					7	1		
	6		5		4		7	
	7		9	1				6
9		3		2	6	5		

Solution

Across: 1 Baid, 5 Aah, 8 Hebe, 12 Too early, 14 User, 15 Uplifted, 16 Sala, 17 May, 18 Result, 20 Major, 23 Iowa, 24 It is, 25 Angered, 28 Nov, 29 Odder, 30 Sen, 32 Menuhin, 34 Rhea, 35 Asea, 36 Yearn, 37 Debits, 40 Hem, 41 Awol, 42 Initiate, 47 Rene, 48 Vanishes, 49 A sad, 50 EMT, 51 SSES.
Down: 1 BTU, 2 AOP, 3 Lol, 4 Delimos, 5 Art, 6 Ale, 7 Hydrogen, 8 Hussar, 9 Esau, 10 Bell, 11 Era, 13 Afar, 19 Ewer, 20 Min, 21 Atom, 22 Live, 23 India, 25 Adhesive, 26 Esha, 27 Deer, 29 Oust, 31 Nan, 33 Nailed, 34 Remiss, 36 Yeti, 37 Dara, 38 Ewes, 39 Bona, 40 Hint, 43 Nam, 44 AHS, 45 Tee, 46 Ess.

1	4	5	6	2	7	3	8	9
6	8	2	3	1	9	4	7	5
3	7	6	4	8	5	1	9	2
8	5	1	7	4	2	6	3	9
7	6	4	5	9	3	2	1	8
2	9	3	8	6	1	7	5	4
4	2	7	1	5	9	6	8	3
5	3	8	6	7	4	9	2	1
9	1	6	2	3	8	5	4	7

WHAT TO DO: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only one correct solution.

Changing Mindsets, Healing The Planet

—Rajyogi Brahma Kumar Nikunj Ji

Recently, news channels and newspapers carried the news of a 2-metre-tall statue of Nataraja being installed on the premises of one of the world's premier scientific institutes, CERN. Some say that the Nataraja statue explains the structure of the atom, and therefore scientists decided to place it in the CERN campus. Whereas some are saying that the posture of the statue called 'Anand Tandavam' is similar to the motion of sub-atoms. The most surprising answer came from a scientist who expressed that Lord Shankar's form of Nataraja symbolises the cosmic dance of creation and destruction.

It was not so long back when activists had predicted that sooner or later nature will definitely react to all the abuses she has been sustaining from human beings. For thousands of years nature has provided humanity with free clean water, food, fresh air, fertile earth, and every variety of benefit for our sustenance and enjoyment, and it has given us untold wealth. But instead of respecting the laws of nature and using its abundance wisely, we have indulged in an orgy of greed and egoistic destructiveness. A recent

scientific study into climate change has concluded that almost all of the summer sea ice in the Arctic Ocean is likely to disappear by late this century because of global warming. Such an eventuality is inevitable because of the unstoppable momentum of global warming, which is being caused by the emission of greenhouse gases which trap heat in the atmosphere, raising the average temperature. The reason for all this is human karma against nature, and now is the time to reap the bitter fruits of those selfish and arrogant attitudes and activities. Now that we are truly in an emergency situation, what is to be done?

To start with, we need to CHANGE. Yes! It's high time that we now become responsible in our relationship with nature and with each other. Unless we check and change the basis of our growth process and attune our lifestyle to respect the laws of nature, we can be sure that nature will continue to strike more ferociously.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist for publications across India, Nepal & UK. Till Date, 8500+ Published Columns have been written by Him)

(nikunjji@gmail.com/www.brahmakumaris.com)

SAIBABA & SWAMI SAMARTH

MESSAGE FOR THE DAY

Today is extremely important; make the most of it. It is a day for learning, luxury, and contemplation.

You will receive answers from us if you sit silently and meditate.

Heal your doubts and anxiety, and surrender your worries for magic to happen. We loved the sandalwood offering.



Tip for the day: Offer rose water and say, "Baba and Swami, let the fragrance of joy fill our lives." The next day, sprinkle it on yourself, your family, and your home.

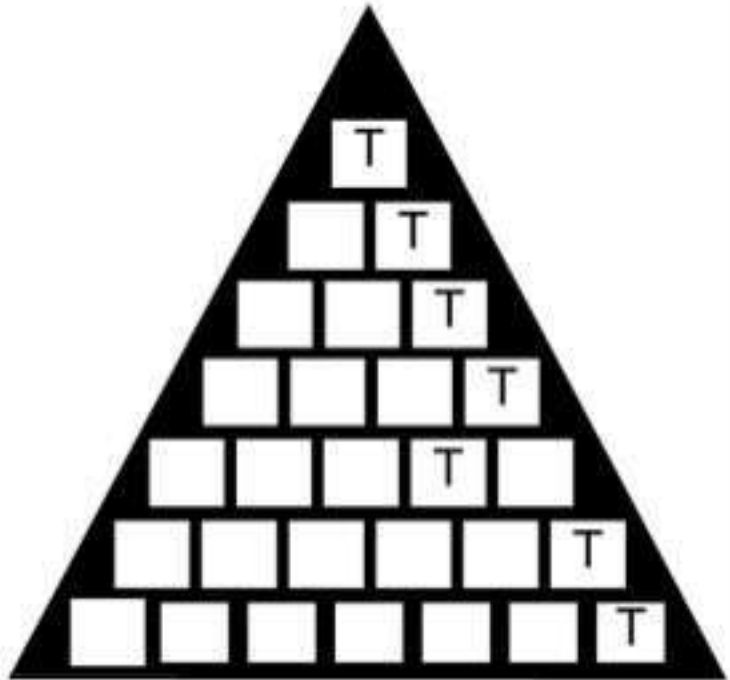
Lots of divine miracles your way, Sheetal Sapan Mhatre.



ALPHA TRIANGLE

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

- 1 Tonne, abbr.
- 2 Astatine for the chemist
- 3 Chow down
- 4 Orient
- 5 Flavour
- 6 Certify
- 7 Most corpulent



T, At, Eat, East, Taste, Attest, Fattest.

Solution to Alpha Triangle

S G E R H S E C E I P W S
E C R E E V E T S T E B P
L E U L A V A L K Y L I I
E J T A R R Z Y U K O W H
C S N E T P L E G R H T C
T N U D S N R I C B A S S
I G M S E J F O U E N W N
O I B V R T D L S E D G E
N S E E S A C G K K L A K
T E R D N K H O L D E M O
S D S T Y L E S P A I D T
E I E T L D I A M O N D S
B C A R D S C A S I N O S

Poker

Can you find the words connected in one way or the other with the theme indicated by the title in today's Word Search? The words may be read horizontally, vertically or diagonally either forwards or backwards, but always in straight lines. Use a ruler to cross them through as you find them.

- Ante

Best

Bets

Cards

Case

Casinos

Chips

Club

Dealer
- Designs

Diamonds

Edge

Evenly

Gifts

Handle

Hearts

Holdem

Numbers
- Paid

Pieces

Pros

Rate

Rules

Selection

Styles

Tokens

Value

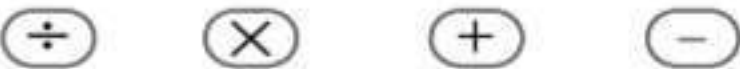


Go Figure



Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once. Operations should be carried out sequentially. BODMAS rule does not apply.

The operators:



Easy

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ = 21

3 4 4 7

Medium

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ = 29

2 3 6 7

Hard

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ = 20

2 3 5 8

Our Solutions:
Easy - 7 x 4 / 4 x 3 = 21
Medium - 3 x 2 x 6 - 7 = 29
Hard - 5 - 3 + 8 x 2 = 20

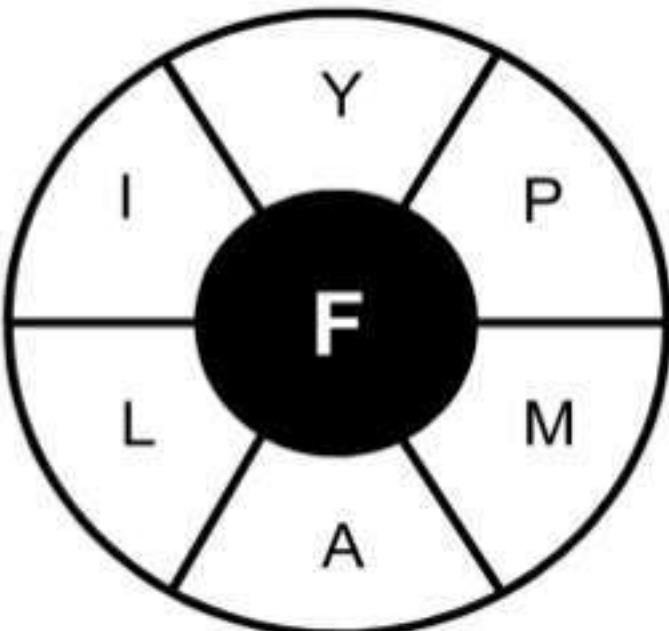
Riddler

This is a test to gauge your mental flexibility, creativity and cunning. Good Luck!
(Example: 16 O in a P. Answer: 16 Ounces in a Pound)
13 L in a B D

Answer: 13 Leaves in a baker's dozen

BULL'S EYE

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Each word can use a letter only once and must contain the central letter. There should be at least one 7-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as reference.

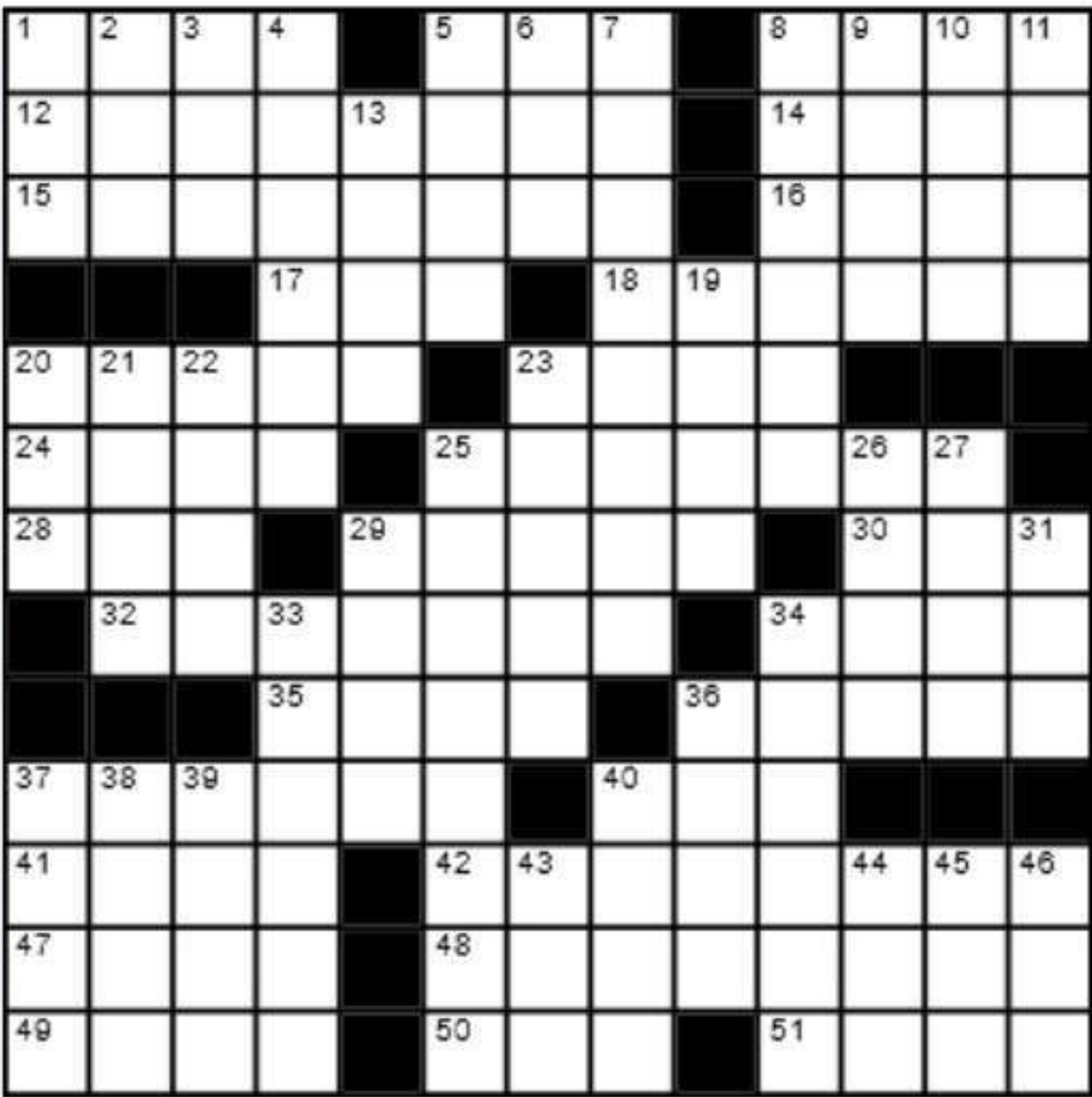


Ratings:

05 average; 06 good; 08 outstanding.

SOLUTION :
AMPLIFY, fail, family, film, filmy, flap, flay, flip

Crossword #1495



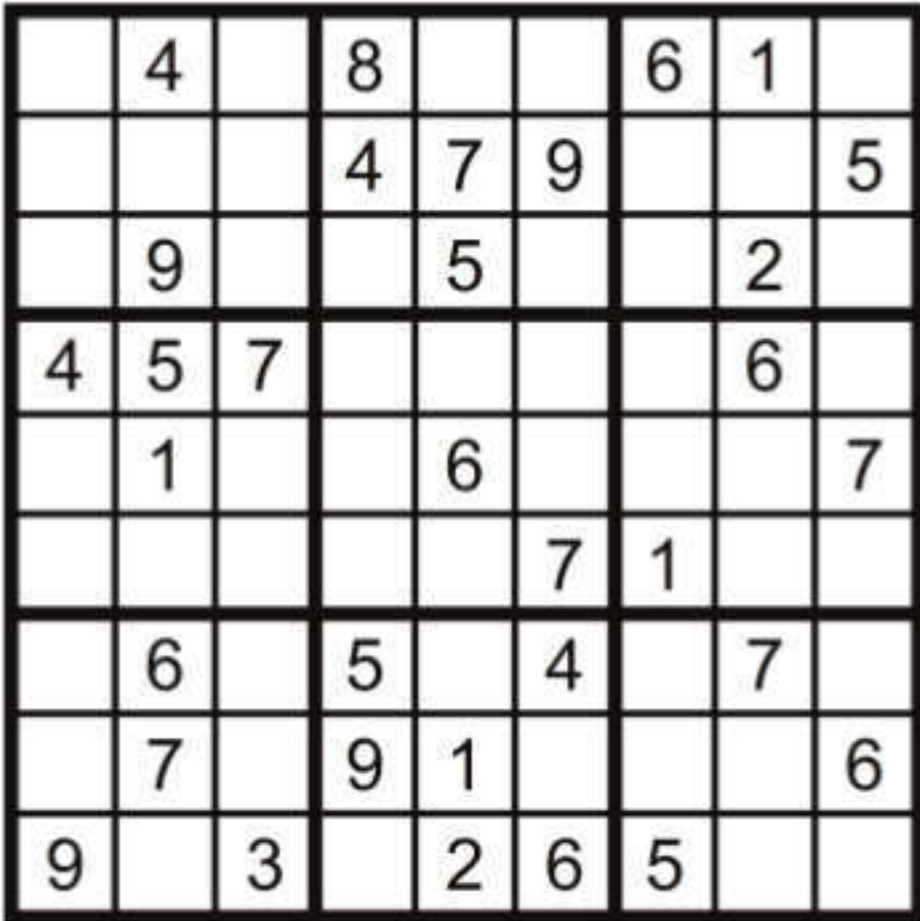
Across

- 1 Hairless
- 5 Sigh of contentment
- 8 In Greek mythology she was cup-bearer to the gods
- 12Way before time (3,5)
- 14Consumer
- 15Improved or bettered
- 16Hacienda room - "alas" anagram ?
- 17Might
- 18Outcome
- 20Important
- 23Des Moines is the capital of this U.S. state
- 24It's full form? (2,2)
- 25Vexed or enraged
- 28Calendar abbr.
- 29Rummier
- 30A Japanese copper coin
- 32Yehudi ____ : the famous violinist?
- 34South America's "ostrich"
- 35Between two ports
- 36Long for
- 37Ledger entries
- 40Clothing edge
- 41Gone sans permission
- 42Start
- 47Tennis legend Lacoste
- 48Disappears
- 49 ____ state of affairs: unfortunate circumstances (1,3)
- 50Ambulance person: abbr.
- 51Nav. readings

Down

- 1 British Thermal Unit, in short
- 2 Assoc. of Optical Practitioners
- 3 Laughing out loud, acronym?
- 4 Smaller moon of Mars
- 5 Showily pretentious
- 6 Alcoholic beverage
- 7 Lightest gas
- 8 Cavalry soldier
- 9 Jacob's twin brother
- 10As sound as a ____ ?
- 11Quod ____ demonstrandum
- 13A long way off
- 19Large water jug
- 20Minimum, abbr.
- 21Very small particle
- 22Swing music
- 23Asian country
- 25A glue
- 26Bollywood's ____ Deol
- 27Horned animal
- 29Expel
- 31A Bobbsey twin
- 33Secured with brad
- 34Negligent or careless
- 36Himalayan myth
- 37Indian wrestling great ____ Singh
- 38Female sheep
- 39 ____ fide : real and genuine ?
- 40Innuendo or insinuation
- 43Vietnam, colloquially and in short ?
- 44American Helicopter Society
- 4520th letter of the alphabet
- 46The letter "S"

SUDOKU



43 Nam, 44 AHS, 45 Tee, 46 Ess.
37 Dan, 38 Ewes, 39 Bona, 40 Hint,
31 Nam, 33 Nailed, 34 Remiss, 36 Yet,
25 Adhesive, 26 Esna, 27 Deer, 29 Oust,
20 Min, 21 Atom, 22 Jive, 23 India,
9 Esau, 10 Bell, 11 Eat, 13 Alar, 19 Ewer,
5 Any, 6 Ale, 7 Hydrogen, 8 Hussar,
Down: 1 BTU, 2 AOR, 3 Lol, 4 Demos,
sad, 50 EMT, 51 SSES.
42 Initiate, 47 Rene, 48 Vanishes, 49 A
36 Yeam, 37 Debts, 40 Hem, 41 Awol,
30 Sen, 32 Menuhin, 34 Rhea, 35 Asea,
24 It is, 25 Angered, 28 Nov, 29 Odder,
17 May, 18 Result, 20 Major, 23 Iowa,
early, 14 User, 15 Uplifted, 16 Sala,
Across: 1 Bald, 5 Ash, 8 Hebe, 12 Too



WHAT TO DO: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only one correct solution.

Essential Gardening Tools: The must-have watering can

Savitha B

A skilled gardener maximizes the efficiency of every available resource. In this vibrant realm of horticulture, where plants thrive and unfold their beauty, a pivotal instrument commands attention—the watering can. Beyond its utilitarian purpose, a watering can is a gardener's trusted companion, a vessel of nurturing care that ensures plants receive the attention they need. In this article, we will explore the different types of watering cans and delve into their varied uses, highlighting why these simple yet essential tools are a must-have for every gardener.



careful attention, and a watering can with a rose attachment or a fine spout is perfect for providing a gentle shower of water. This prevents seedlings from being disturbed or damaged during the critical early stages of growth.

• **Disease prevention:** Watering cans contribute to plant health by minimizing water contact with foliage. Splashing water onto leaves can spread diseases, and the precise application of a watering can helps keep plants healthier and more resistant to pests and pathogens.



Types of watering cans:

Traditional watering can:

Recognizable by its classic design, featuring a long spout and a curved handle, the traditional watering can is a timeless favorite among gardeners. Its simplicity and functionality make it suitable for a wide range of plants, from delicate flowers to hearty vegetables.

Rose watering can:

With a rose attachment at the end of the spout, this type of watering can ensures a gentle and even distribution of water. Ideal for nurturing young seedlings and plants with sensitive foliage, the rose watering can prevents soil erosion and minimizes the risk of overwatering.

Seedling care:

Delicate seedlings require careful attention, and a watering can with a rose attachment or a fine spout is perfect for providing a gentle shower of water. This prevents seedlings from being disturbed or damaged during the critical early stages of growth.

• **Disease prevention:** Watering cans contribute to plant health by minimizing water contact with foliage. Splashing water onto leaves can spread diseases, and the precise application of a watering can helps keep plants healthier and more resistant to pests and pathogens.

Haws watering can:

Characterized by its elegant and ergonomic design, the Haws watering can is a favorite among avid gardeners. Its sleek shape, balance, and long spout make it easy to reach plants in tight spaces or hanging baskets. Haws cans are often made of high-quality materials, ensuring durability and longevity.

Self-watering can:

Modern gardening has introduced self-watering cans with built-in reservoirs or mechanisms that allow for automatic watering. These innovative cans are particularly convenient for those with busy schedules or for plants that require consistent moisture levels.

Uses of watering cans:

• **Targeted watering:** Watering cans allow gardeners to target specific areas or plants that require extra care. This is especially crucial in areas with diverse plant types or varying water needs.

• **Precision watering:** Watering cans offer a level of precision that hoses and sprinklers cannot match. Gardeners can direct water precisely to the base of plants, minimizing water wastage and ensuring that the roots receive adequate hydration.

So, the next time you embark on your gardening adventure, don't forget to grab your watering can—it's the magical wand that brings life and vitality to your green oasis.

Amritha K

Colouring your hair is the new 'it' thing; social media is proof! The introduction of home-grown, vegan and cruelty-free brands seems responsible for the increasing number of people colouring the tresses in pretty, funky colours. For natural Indian hair, which varies from jet black to a deep brown, bleaching is the first step in hair colouring. The dark shade of our hair has to be lightened if you want the preppy colours to be visible. When bleach is applied to hair, it oxidises the melanin granules that make it look black. Because this causes hair damage, your hair needs to be in good condition before you bleach it. If your hair is dry or damaged, wait a month or two before you bleach it. While you're waiting, you can revive your hair. At least two weeks before you bleach your hair, start preparing it - that is, by applying oil regularly, pausing hair styling and straightening and regularly conditioning.

We've all heard it and still hear it - 'don't bleach your hair, it ruins it', but well-behaved women (and men) seldom have fun (or something like that), right?! So, while there will be certain damage to your hair, proper hair care after bleaching and colouring can go a long way. Here are certain points you need to keep in mind before bleaching your hair. Take a look.

Things to keep in mind before bleaching hair

■ **Know your hair type:** Is your hair suited for bleach? Bleaching dries the hair and causes damage, so if your hair is dry and prone to damage, you may want to improve your hair health before bleaching hair.

■ **Research different brands:** Spend time and search for the types of bleaching agents available and what your hair specialist is likely to use. Also, decide whether you want to go for a store-bought bleach or a natural ingredient.

■ **Bleach makes the hair dry:** It is no secret that bleaching causes the hair strands to go dry, and hair strands are damaged. Are you ready to let your hair go through that damage? Consult a professional as to what steps to take to minimise damage.

■ **Choose a colour to suit your skin tone:** Not all skin tones will suit all shades of hair tones. If you cannot make up your mind, try doing a colour test with computer images. Seeing yourself in different hair tones can help you decide better. Another thing that you can do is visit a wig store and try different coloured wigs. Ooor, you can just go crazy and colour your head the shade you wish - who's stopping you!

■ **No going back:** Before you bleach all the hair, do a test run. Try bleaching a portion of your hair, some area which is not much visible. If your hair and scalp are in good condition after the bleach, that means it suits you, and you can go ahead and bleach throughout.

■ **Test before a complete change:** Whatever your decision regarding bleaching hair, always keep in mind that there is no going back once you bleach. So, think twice or even thrice and take a decision with all confidence.

■ **Your hair will require extra care:** Normal hair requires care for health and bounce, and for bleaching hair white, you need to be careful to cover all the strands. You need to be careful about washing bleached hair and check the changing colour as time passes. Use dry shampoo as far as possible. Try to keep hair tangle-free. Use products made for bleached hair.

■ **Check scalp health:** Your scalp needs to be in good health before a hair bleaching session. If you have any infection, are undergoing chemotherapy or radiation, have lice or scratchy scalp, try to get that healed first. Bleaching can worsen these conditions.

Bleaching your hair? Know this first

Step-by-step guide to bleach your hair

Now that you have an idea of whether bleaching is suitable for your hair, here is a step-by-step on how you can do it at home.

- **Step 1:** Get all your supplies ready - bleach powder, developer, plastic bowl, brush and gloves.
- **Step 2:** Wear some old clothes.
- **Step 3:** Section your hair.
- **Step 4:** Mix the developer and bleach (as per instructions).
- **Step 5:** Apply the bleach and cover your hair with aluminium foil or a plastic bag.

• **Step 6:** Apply the colour first to the tips and mid-lengths of your hair as they take longer to lighten than roots.

• **Step 7:** Let the bleach sit for at least 20 minutes before you apply the colour to the roots.

• **Step 8:** Do not leave the bleach on for more than 30-45 minutes.

• **Step 9:** After 45 minutes, rinse the bleach out thoroughly using a mild shampoo to balance the pH levels of your scalp.

• **Step 10:** Air-dry your hair, and now you are free to colour your tresses!

Warning: If you notice redness, itching, or burning after you have kept the bleach on your hair for a while, please wash the bleach off and consult a doctor.

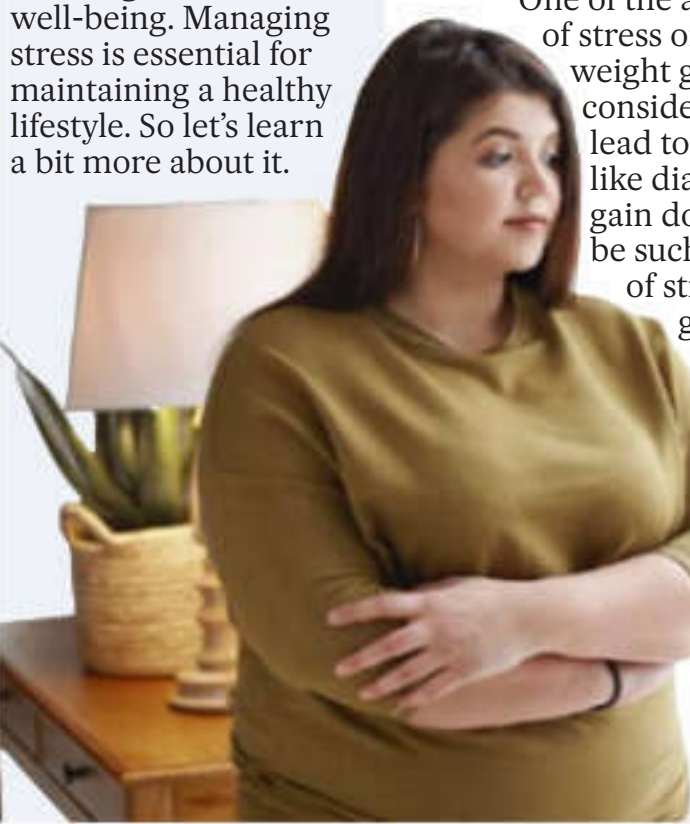
Note: If you are having second thoughts about bleaching your hair at home, go to a salon and get it done by a professional.



Stress is linked with weight gain, scientists reveal

Sakhi Pandey

Stress is a very common term thrown around casually whenever one is feeling pressurized or burdened because of various factors known as stressors like overloading work, functions, exams, etc. It can manifest not only in the form of emotional strain but also as physical symptoms, affecting overall well-being. Managing stress is essential for maintaining a healthy lifestyle. So let's learn a bit more about it.



However, what exactly is stress?

Stress is nothing but a physical, bodily response to stressors around us. When under a lot of pressure or feeling stressed, our body thinks that we are going under attack and therefore secretes a lot of hormones to deal with the stress or to fight back. If this mental state is prolonged, it could lead to some awful effects on health and in some cases - death, as explained by Hans Selye's GAS Model of Stress.

One of the adverse effects of stress on health is weight gain. Although, considering stress can lead to worse diseases like diabetes, weight gain doesn't seem to be such a bad effect of stress. However, gaining weight due to stress is not something one should take lightly. Weight gain itself can lead to heart problems, cancer, diabetes,

strokes and even depression at times. Stress is one of the main reasons weight is gained by a lot of people around the world, as proven by science and scientists working on the adverse effects of stress. When one is under a lot of stress, they might start losing appetite as a result, however, when you start experiencing chronic stress, i.e., when stressors are present in the environment over a long period of time, generally for over a few months, a person is said to be experiencing chronic stress. With chronic stress comes overeating, as stress actually makes one more hungry than usual due to all the hormonal imbalances in the body.

In chronic stress, the body enters survival mode, triggering excessive hunger and overeating as it falsely perceives calorie depletion from stress-induced efforts, despite not having actually burned those calories. This creates a compelling urge to compensate for the perceived calorie loss during the stress response.

So then why go in for "Comfort foods" and not something healthy?

While going through a stressful episode, our body secretes a hormone known as cortisol, also known as "the stress hormone." Secretion of this hormone into the body increases the level of insulin in the body. An increase in insulin leads to a decrease in the blood sugar level. Therefore, this fall in blood sugar level makes one crave for food that is sugary and sweet as well as fatty foods in general. That is why we choose having an ice cream or cake over a full course healthy meal or a bowl of vegetables or salad. It's not just because it tastes better but also because your body practically demands it. That's why sugary, fatty foods are called comfort foods—stress makes us crave them, leading to weight gain, especially belly fat.

Why is it important to keep our weight in check?

Although the weight gain is caused due to stress, the factors inculcate overeating and eating junk food, which is how we gain weight generally and therefore it is extremely unhealthy.

■ **First things first,** weight gain affects more than how our body looks on the outside. It is responsible for causing a number of health issues like heart problems and diabetes and thus obesity needs to be kept in check and one of the ways to do that is to take less stress or avoid overeating and exercising more often and eating foods like fruits, etc.

■ **Second,** it battles with the shape of your body. A lot of people feel more confident when they look their best and weight gain as well as loss due to stress disrupts that state of being and therefore becomes a problem.

Understanding the risk factors and importance of early detection in ovarian cancer

MUMBAI

Ovarian cancer remains one of the most challenging gynecological cancers due to its subtle symptoms and late detection. This article sheds light on the risk factors of ovarian cancer. Furthermore, know why timely detection can be life-saving for women.

Ovarian cancer is a type of cancer that starts in the ovaries and often goes undetected until it has spread. In advanced stages, symptoms may include abdominal bloating, pelvic pain, frequent urination, and changes in bowel habits. Risk factors include age, family history, and genetic mutations like BRCA1/2. Awareness and early check-ups are key to improving outcomes and saving lives.

"One of the strongest known risk factors for ovarian cancer is genetics. Women who carry inherited mutations in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes are at a much higher risk of developing ovarian cancer. These genetic

mutations can be passed down from either parent, and women with a family history of breast or ovarian cancer should consider genetic counseling. Besides BRCA mutations, Lynch syndrome, a condition linked to colon and endometrial cancers, also increases the risk. Age is another significant factor. Most ovarian cancers are diagnosed in women over 50, with risk increasing as women grow older. However, it's important to note that younger women are not immune, especially if other risk factors are present. A family history of ovarian, breast, or Survival rate for ovarian cancer significantly improves with early diagnosis. If caught in the early stages (Stage I), a woman will be able to improve her quality of life. Unfortunately, due to vague symptoms like bloating, pelvic pain, or changes in bowel habits, many cases are diagnosed at a later stage. Remember, timely intervention is key to detect and manage this cancer," said Dr Kekan Gala, Gynecologist Apollo Spectra, Mumbai.

Explaining about the screening for this cancer, Dr Deep Vora, Oncologist, Zynova Shalby Hospital Mumbai said, "There is currently no effective standard screening test for ovarian cancer, which makes awareness all the more crucial. However, regular pelvic exams, ultrasound imaging in high-risk cases, and being vigilant about symptoms can help detect it earlier.



Women with a strong family history or known genetic risk should undergo regular check-ups and discuss preventative options with their doctors. While Pap smears do not detect ovarian cancer, regular gynecological visits help identify changes that might signal a problem. For those at high risk, transvaginal ultrasounds and CA-125 blood tests may be recommended. Lifestyle choices also matter. Maintaining a healthy weight, avoiding smoking, and staying physically active can help lower the risk. Being informed about one's family history and understanding symptoms will help women to seek timely treatment. So, early awareness, genetic screening, and informed choices can make a life-saving difference for women."

Childhood under pressure:

The silent crisis in children's mental health

Dr Maitri Thakker

Clinical Psychologist, Lilavati Hospital Mumbai

Children are not small adults. Their minds are still forming, still fragile. And yet, the pressures we place on them today could break even the strongest among us. Mental Health Awareness Month serves as a critical reminder that mental wellness begins early. In recent years, clinicians, educators, and parents alike have witnessed a worrying trend: childhood is no longer the sanctuary it once was. Across age groups, children are reporting heightened levels of stress, anxiety, sadness, and isolation. It's time we pause and ask are we doing enough to protect their mental health?

The changing face of childhood

In a world that increasingly celebrates achievement, independence and digital connectivity, one group is quietly shouldering a burden it was never meant to bear our children. The idyllic idea of a carefree childhood is being replaced by a reality of relentless academic pressure, screen-induced overstimulation, social comparison, and emotional isolation. As adults look ahead, children today are being pushed to grow up faster than ever before often at the cost of their mental well-being.

The invisible weight of expectations

Children rarely say, "I'm anxious" or "I feel low." Instead, they show us. A once-active child becoming withdrawn. A playful child suddenly erupts in anger. Physical symptoms like frequent headaches or stomach pain, trouble sleeping, or changes in appetite may mask deeper emotional struggles. Yet, in our rush to correct behavior, we often overlook its roots. Labeling a child as "difficult," "lazy," or "overdramatic" risks missing the distress signals they're sending out in the only way they know how.

From school assessments to co-curricular achievements, the bar for "success" keeps rising. Children as young as five are expected to display focus, discipline, and self-regulation, even as their brains are still developing the capacity to manage complex emotions. Adolescents are bombarded with unrealistic standards from academic excellence to body image through social media and peer culture. For many, childhood has become less about play and more about performance.

What does stress look like in a child?

Unlike adults, children rarely express their distress in words. They show it in behavior, sleep patterns, appetite changes, somatic complaints, or emotional outbursts. What might seem like "acting out" or "withdrawing" may be a child's only way to say: "I'm not okay."

Common stress triggers in children:

Academic pressure: High expectations, fear of failure, comparison with peers, and the looming pressure of exams can overwhelm young minds. Even well-meaning encouragement can become burdensome if children internalize it as performance-based worth. Every child has their own pace and personality; comparing them to peers and affirming achievement over effort can lead to emotional upheaval and distress.



Family changes & conflict: Events like divorce, the loss of a loved one, or even a house move can disrupt a child's sense of safety. Constant arguments or financial tension at home can lead to anxiety, confusion, or emotional shutdown.

Overstimulation: Many children today have little time for rest or unstructured play. Between school, classes, and extra curricular, they are often exhausted, emotionally depleted, and struggling silently.

Peer pressure & social media:

The digital world exposes children to constant comparison, validation-seeking, and cyber bullying. The pressure to "fit in" or appear perfect can deeply impact their self-esteem.

Health issues: Chronic illnesses—whether the child's or a family member's—can create anxiety, insecurity, and feelings of helplessness. Even missing school due to frequent colds can increase academic stress.

Uncertainty about the future: Shifts in school routines, friendships, or parental work schedules may make children feel powerless or unsafe, especially when they're not included in conversations about change.

The neuroscience of childhood stress

The science is unequivocal: chronic stress in childhood alters the architecture of the developing brain. It affects areas responsible for emotional regulation, attention, and memory. Over time, this can result in anxiety disorders, depression, learning difficulties, and behavioral issues. But just as early stress can harm, the good news is that early support can heal. The developing brain is remarkably plastic—it can reorganize and recover, especially when nurtured in safe, validating environments.

What caregivers must remember

We must replace the expectation of premature maturity with an understanding of developmental needs. Every tantrum, shutdown, or anxious refusal to attend school may be a cry for help—not a failure of discipline. Here's how we can support children more effectively:

- **Listen to create emotional safety with presence, not pressure:** When a child shares something difficult, resist the urge to fix or lecture. Sometimes, being heard is enough. Encourage open conversations about feelings.
- **Model emotional hygiene:** Let children see you express emotions in healthy ways. Show them that sadness or feeling overwhelmed is part of being human. Demonstrate how you manage stress and respond to vulnerability calmly.
- **Limit screen time, increase green time:** Play is essential—movement, nature, and unstructured time build resilience, creativity, and connection. Encourage reading, music, and hands-on activities that ground and soothe.
- **Watch, don't dismiss:** Notice even subtle changes in behavior.
- **Be curious, not critical:** Seek to understand the reason behind a child's behavior rather than rushing to correct it.

A collective responsibility:

Children are shaped by the adults, environments, and systems around them. Instead of asking, "What's wrong with this child?" to "What happened to this child, and how can we help?" This Mental Health Awareness Month, let's stop romanticizing resilience and start creating environments where children don't need it just to survive.

Disclaimer: The Free Press Journal bears no responsibility for the content that appears on this page.



'We are nervous'

Kangana Ranaut lauds 'Operation Sindoor', urges public to pray for Indian armed forces amid conflict

CJ Desk

Actress-turned-politician hailed the Indian Army on Wednesday for the successful 'Operation Sindoor' — an operation carried out to obliterate terrorist camps in Pakistan. While at it, she stated that people are nervous since the country is at war now, but we must trust and pray for our jawans.

While interacting with the media in Delhi, Kangana said, "The country is at war right now, so obviously, we are all very nervous. But our security forces are protecting us, and we all must pray that may God protect them and help them succeed in their missions. We should all pray that the country be safe from all kinds of dangers."

"Humein khatra nahi hai, hum khud khatra hai," she added.

Explaining the meaning behind the name of the mission, the BJP MP shared, "PM Modi has named this mission 'Operation Sindoor', because the husbands of our mothers and daughters were killed right in front of their eyes and they were widowed by the terrorists. Those deaths are now being avenged now."

Earlier in the day, Kangana had saluted the Indian armed forces for targeting and attacking terror camps in Pakistan with precision. "Operation Sindoor: Zero tolerance to terror. The Indian Armed Forces launched a precision mission, Operation Sindoor; 9 terror camps across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir neutralized (sic)," she wrote on X.

Stars salute forces

Actors Rajinikanth, Akshay Kumar, Ajay Devgn, Kangana Ranaut, and Allu Arjun praised Indian armed forces for carrying out missile strikes early Wednesday in Pakistan in retaliation against the barbaric terror attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 civilians. The Indian Army said nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, including Bahawalpur which is a major base of Jaish-e-Mohammad terror outfit, were hit under 'Operation Sindoor'.



"The fighter's fight begins... No stopping until the mission is accomplished! The entire NATION is with you. @PMOIndia @HMOIndia #OperationSindoor JAI HIND!" — Rajinikanth



"Saluting our Honourable Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi and our Indian forces. India stands tall and strong. Jai Hind!" — Ajay Devgn



"Jai Hind. Jai Mahakaal!" — Akshay Kumar



"Respect and gratitude to our armed forces" — Kajol

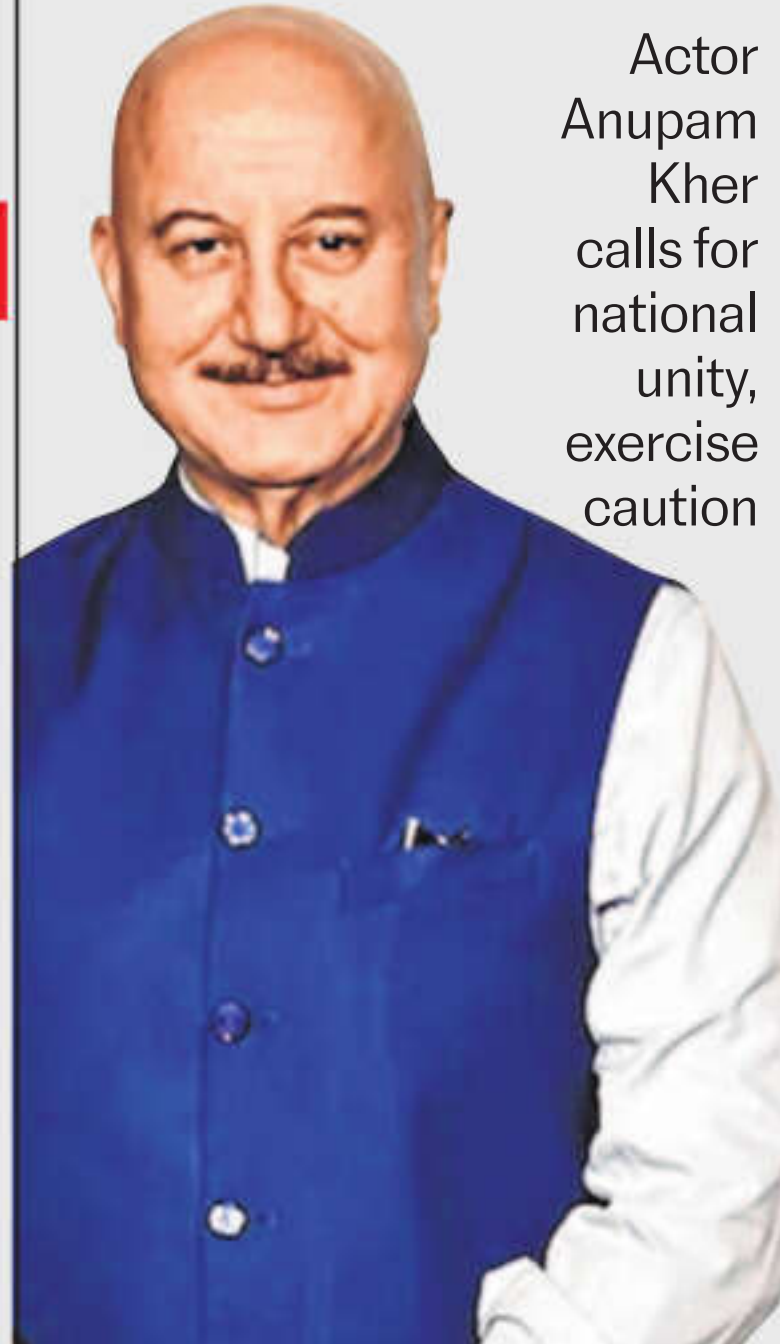


"May justice be served. Jai Hind #OperationSindoor" — Allu Arjun



"Jai Hind, Jai Sena #OperationSindoor" — Vicky Kaushal

India must stay united



Actor Anupam Kher calls for national unity, exercise caution

CJ Desk

As the nation proceeds to next steps in the ongoing escalations, and possibly open diplomatic channels against its notorious neighbour Pakistan, veteran actor Anupam Kher has called for national unity, and to exercise caution.

On Wednesday, the actor took to his Instagram, and shared a video in which he spoke to the camera, and urged the countrymen to exercise restraint, and be careful while sharing information on social media.

He said, "Jai Hind, friends. Today, India has taken a decisive step under the leadership of our esteemed Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and with the support of the Indian Army. Our country is a peaceful nation, yet it knows how to retaliate against its citizens and its brave soldiers with fierce terrorist at-

tacks. Those days are gone, when we used to remain silent. But today, India has changed. We all know this. I am making this video as a responsible Indian citizen."

He further mentioned that this action is against terrorism, and is for self-defense and justice. He shared, "In such circumstances, we also have some responsibilities, and it is very important for us to take care of some things. For example, No video, photo or message should be forwarded on social media without inspection. This spreads fear and confusion. No photo should be taken or shared in any army movements, bunkers or sensory places. No emergency services should be blocked. Call 10010102108 only in real emergencies. Stay away from high-risk areas, especially from border areas, until further instructions are received from the government. Only rely on government announcements and verified news sources."

Surbhi slams comparisons with Dhanashree



Rashita Sahni

Surbhi Chandra, who was recently trolled for looking like Dhanashree Verma, hit back at haters as she called them 'jobless' for comparing the two. Major trolling began right after Dhanashree Verma and cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal officially got divorced on March 20, 2025. While netizens kept trolling Dhanashree on her social media pages, some reached Surbhi's account as well and started trolling her.

Surbhi, in an exclusive conversation with *The Free Press Journal*, spoke about it and said, "It's neither her (Dhanashree's) fault that she looks like me if people think this way, nor is it my fault that I look like her. People are sitting at home and they're jobless, hence they're writing all this. What more do I say on this? There's nothing I can say. You're sort of looking for resemblance and you got it, so what now? People really write weird things and you know what? I've realised one thing, people are sitting at home and they have no work, so they will write whatever they want. They're jobless. That's it. I've nothing more to say."



Scan QR code to watch the full interview on FPJ's YouTube channel

SRK's stylish thanks

Shah Rukh Khan thanks Sabyasachi Mukherjee and his team for introducing him to the Met Gala

CJ Desk

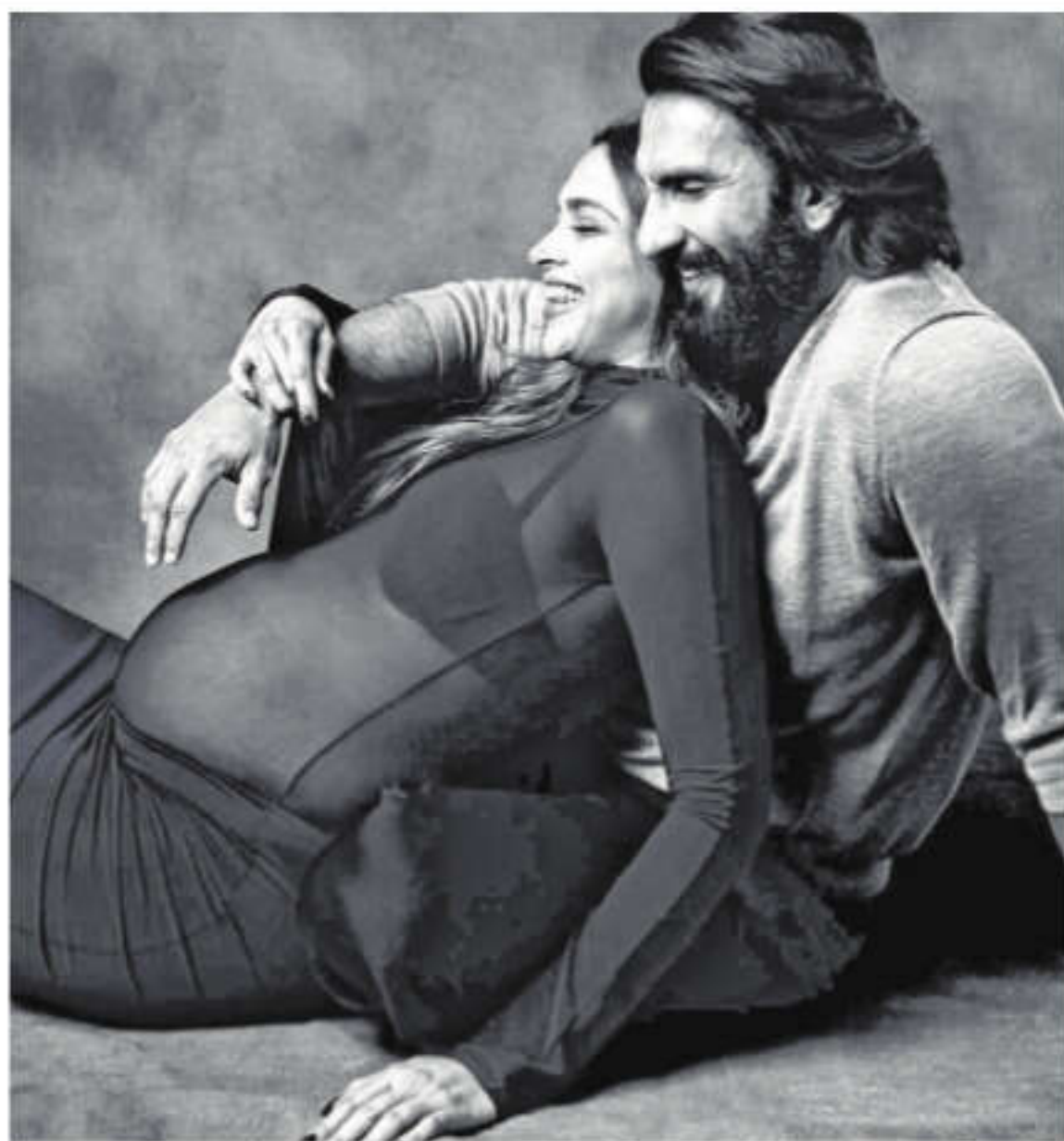
Shah Rukh Khan has become the talk of the town because of his debut at Met Gala 2025.

The actor's look at the red carpet surely stole the show, and his fans are going gaga over it. On Tuesday, SRK took to Instagram to share some pictures from a photo-shoot that he did at Met Gala, and in the caption he thanked designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee and his team.

SRK in the caption wrote, "Thx @sabyasachiofficial & ur whole team for introducing me to the Met Gala. It's not my 'space' but u made me feel so comfortable...becos u, like me, believe...Style & Fashion...is just being who you are. And all of u made me feel like a 'K' (sic)"

SRK's outfit at Met Gala 2025

The *Jawan* actor wore an all-black suit along with high-waist trousers, a black silk shirt, and a tailcoat. He wore multiple rings and necklaces, and one of them had an oversized K pendant which of course was referring to his tag of King Khan. While Priyanka Chopra and Alia Bhatt had attended Met Gala earlier, Shah Rukh Khan is one of the first Indian male actor to attend the event. Well, this year, along with him Priyanka, Diljit Dosanjh, and Kiara Advani also walked the red carpet at the Met Gala. Clearly, Indian celebs stole the show at an international event.



Deepika on motherhood

CJ Desk

Deepika Padukone is currently enjoying motherhood after welcoming her baby daughter, Dua Padukone Singh, on September 8, 2024. The actress, who stepped away from work after announcing her pregnancy in February, recently revealed that her pregnancy journey was 'complicated.'

In an interview with Marie Claire, Deepika shared, "I went through a lot in the eight, nine months of being pregnant and delivery." Deepika revealed that she and Ranveer Singh took their time in choosing a name for their baby

girl, ensuring they didn't settle for anything that didn't feel right for her. The actress added, "I think what was more important for us was to first hold the baby in our arms, allow her to sort of see this new world she's come into, allow her personality to start developing a little bit."

Deepika shared that she found inspiration for her daughter's name through poetry and music. She shared, "It felt like a beautiful summary of what she means to us and why she means what she means to us." Recalling the moment, Deepika shared how she texted Ranveer in middle of the night while he was on set, asking, 'Dua?' He replied with a simple 'yes', and that was it.

Inside KJo's battle

Filmmaker opens up about battling dysmorphia, reveals reason behind rapid weight loss

CJ Desk

Filmmaker Karan Johar has always been vocal about his body image issues, and in a new podcast, he has opened up about battling body dysmorphia. He revealed that he feels disgusted to look at his body in the mirror, and that it is more than just feeling uncomfortable in one's body.

During his appearance on Raj Shamani's podcast, KJo shared, "I have body dysmorphia. It is a condition when you just cannot look at yourself in the mirror without any clothes on. It is when you are ashamed of your body and you are awkward without clothes on. I am still not okay with looking at my body and feeling good about it."

When he was asked about the difference between being mildly uncomfortable in one's body and having body dysmorphia, Karan explained, "You are uncomfortable, yes. But you don't feel disgusted looking at your body. That is body dysmorphia. *Mujhe ghinn aati hai. Main apne aap ko dekh hi nahi sakta bina kapdo ke.* Now it is better but I am still not completely okay with it."

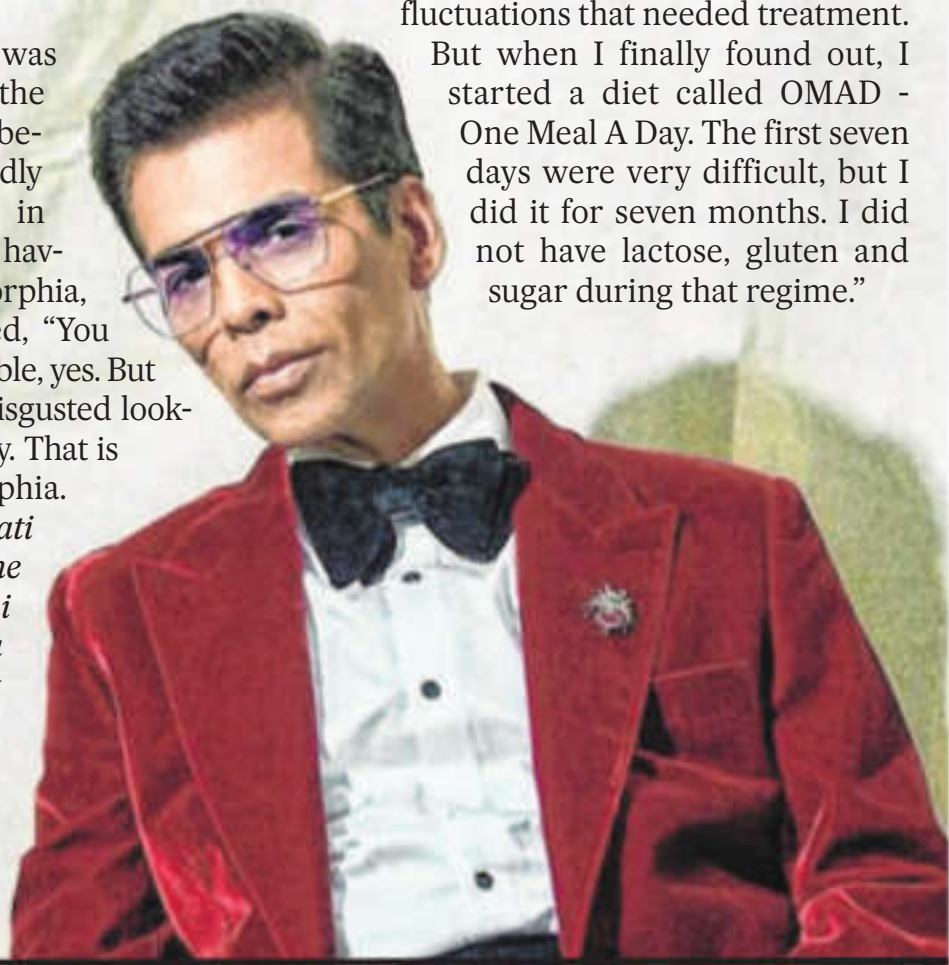
He added that he would

wear oversized clothes to hide his body, because he was "ashamed" of it.

Karan Johar's weight loss method

KJo also broke his silence on his drastic physical transformation, which made people wonder if was using drugs like oземпic to lose weight. The Dharma head honcho shared, "I have always been battling the bulge. I have done 1000 diets, 500 workouts, everything that was available to combat it. Years later, I did my blood works and found out that I had certain thyroid issues and other problems that I needed to fix, and I've now been working on correcting them."

He went on to say, "For 15-20 years, I had no idea that I had certain thyroid fluctuations that needed treatment. But when I finally found out, I started a diet called OMAD - One Meal A Day. The first seven days were very difficult, but I did it for seven months. I did not have lactose, gluten and sugar during that regime."



Allu Arjun and Aamir Khan's recent meeting in Mumbai sparks speculation about a potential collaboration for upcoming projects

Arjun-Aamir collaboration?

CJ Desk

Allu Arjun was in Mumbai a few days ago to attend WAVES 2025. A picture of him with Aamir Khan has gone viral on social media, and netizens are wondering whether the Bollywood star and the Icon star are all set to collaborate for a project. A netizen tweeted, "Guest

appearance in #AA22??" Another netizen thought that maybe Allu Arjun met Aamir for the latter's project *Mahabharat*, he tweeted, "*Mahabharat gurunchi anukunta* (I think about the *Mahabharat*)."

One more X user wrote, "What is cooking between Tollywood Icon Star #AlluArjun and bollywood star #AamirKhan as both met at Aamir residence.. Any collaboration on cards? What do you think?"

Aamir's ambitious project Mahabharat

A few days ago, in an interview with The Hollywood Reporter India, when Aamir was asked about his ambition, the 60-year-old actor said, "I always believe in stories and I have always loved stories. So, my ambition is to continue to tell stories which touch our hearts. The one other ambition that I have which I am hoping to start work on this year, is working on the *Mahabharat*. That's one of my biggest ambitions. So, fingers crossed, hoping to start this year. It will take a while because just the writing process will take a few years."



Aamir's tamil debut

Aamir is all set to make his Tamil debut with the film *Coolie*. The movie stars Rajinikanth in the lead role and has Aamir has a cameo in the movie. Directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, it also features Nagarjuna, Upendra, Soubin Shahir, Sathyaraj, and Shruti Haasan. The movie is slated to release on August 14, 2025. It will clash with Hrithik Roshan, Jr NTR, and Kiara Advani starrer *War 2*.

Nikita Dutta reflects on her childhood shaped by rules and restrictions

Grounded by discipline

FIANS

Actress Nikita Dutta opened up about her formative years, sharing that her childhood was marked by a strong sense of discipline, structure, and routine. Raised in an environment where rules and responsibilities took precedence, she credited this upbringing for instilling values of order and perseverance-traits that continue to influence her personal and professional life.

At a recent event, Nikita also shared an interesting revelation about her early ambitions-she once wanted to appear for the UPSC exams and pursue a career in the civil services. Long before she stepped into the world of showbiz, the actress envisioned herself serving the nation as a civil servant, reflecting the disciplined upbringing that shaped her early years.

Speaking about her career journey, the *Kabir Singh* actress stated, "I come from an Army family-everyone around me has served in the forces in some capacity. Naturally, growing up in that disciplined environment, I too was inclined towards a structured path. At one point, I even wanted to appear for the UPSC exams and pursue civil services. For someone like me, who has now chosen acting as a profession, the shift feels huge." "We grew up with so many rules, routines, and restrictions-everything was about discipline, duty, and order. Choosing a career in the creative arts, where unpredictability is the norm, was a complete departure from what I was used to. But somewhere, I think that grounding has helped me stay focused and resilient in an industry that often feels chaotic," Dutta added.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Nikita Dutta made her acting debut in 2014 with the romantic drama *Lekar Hum Deewana Dil*. She has appeared in films such as *Gold*, *Kabir Singh*, *The Big Bull*, and *Khakee: The Bihar Chapter*.

Most recently, she featured in the heist action thriller *Jewel Thief - The Heist Begins*. Directed by Kookie Gulati and Robbie Grewal, the film also starred Saif Ali Khan, Jaideep Ahlawat, and Kunal Kapoor. It premiered on Netflix on April 25, 2025.



Trailer for Very Parivarik Season 2 is out now

CJ Desk

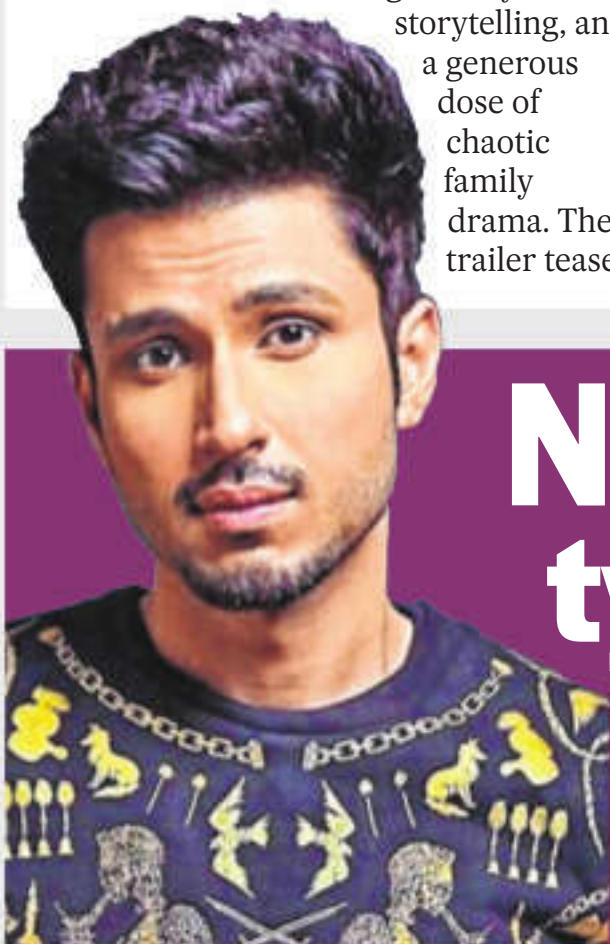
The Viral Fever (TVF), has officially released the trailer for Season 2 of its hit family comedy series, *Very Parivarik*. The new season is set to premiere on May 9, with fresh episodes dropping weekly.

After the success of its debut season, *Very Parivarik* returns with more laughter, layered storytelling, and a generous dose of chaotic family drama. The trailer teases

a meta-narrative where Shelly's life becomes a show within the show, continuing the heartfelt and humorous tone that struck a chord with audiences the first time around.

Speaking about the upcoming season, Vaibhav Bundhoo, creator and director, said, "Season 2 of *Very Parivarik* has a lot more jokes than *The Godfather* (Part III) and *Schindler's List* combined. I've been told to get therapy, but instead, I made this show. Please enjoy the trailer; it's entirely organic and sourced from local farmers."

The trailer is now live on TVF's official YouTube channel, inviting viewers to reunite with their favorite dysfunctional family — now back on a bigger, bolder, and funnier platform.



No more typecast

Amol Parashar opens up about being typecast for playing 'cute' and 'likeable' roles

CJ Desk

Actor Amol Parashar recently discussed how he was often typecast in roles that portrayed him as "cute" or "likeable." Parashar revealed that while many of the roles offered to him leaned towards this familiar image, he made a conscious effort to expand his range and take on more diverse, complex characters that break away from the stereotype.

Explaining his decision to embrace diversity in his roles, Parashar said, "Yes, those kinds of roles-sweet or likeable-were definitely coming my way quite often. I'd say a large majority of the roles offered were like that. But the work I've actually done hasn't always followed that trend." "Sometimes, audiences remember you for roles that are more visible or popular. For

example, the show I did with TVF ran for three seasons, so that stays with people. But then there's *Chitwan*, and *Sardar Udham*, in which the words 'cute' or 'likeable' don't even apply. Those were completely different genres and characters-like a legendary historical figure, a DJ, or even a delivery boy. I've tried to bring variety to the roles I choose," he explained.

Speaking about his latest project, *Gram Chikitsalay*, Amol shared, "As an actor, I always look for strong stories and well-written characters. That was the first draw. Secondly, the creative team-The Viral Fever (TVF) and Prime Video-are known for exceptional storytelling. The concept, the script, and the team behind the project were all deeply appealing. TVF has been creating some of the best content in the country for years. So, for me, there was no reason to say no to this show."



'It is a very dark place'

Bigg Boss 17 fame Soniya Bansal quits acting after 5 films

CJ Desk

Actress Soniya Bansal, who shot to fame with her participation in *Bigg Boss 17*, has decided to quit acting after working in five films. She stated that while she has the work and money, she was lacking peace in her life, and she now wants to be a life coach and guide people. In an interaction with ETimes, Soniya shared, "We are so much into doing everything for others that we forget ourselves. I realised I don't even know what my true purpose is anymore. In this race to be perfect, to stay relevant, and to earn more, I lost myself."

"Money, fame, popularity I had it all. But what I didn't have was peace. And what will you do with the money if you're not at peace? You may have everything externally, but if you're empty inside, it's a very dark place to be," she added. Opening up why she now wishes to be a life coach and spiritual healer, the actress stated, "I want to deeply study what I really want in life. This industry gave me recognition, but it didn't give me stillness. It didn't allow me to breathe. I don't want to pretend anymore. I want to live authentically, for myself and be a Life Coach and Spiritual Healer."

"You never know when your life will change. You never know when death might knock. And if we haven't lived truthfully by then, what's the point of this entire journey?" she quipped.



Unfiltered and furious

CJ Desk

Hina Khan on Tuesday took to Instagram to share her views on the sexual assault and murder that took place in Nishat, Srinagar, in Kashmir. The actress shared three Instagram stories in which she discussed about things like distinguish between rape and sexual assault, blaming alcohol for crimes, and more. She also once again posted about the Pahalgam attack in one of her stories.

The *Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai* actress shared a long note which read, "Can someone for gods sake teach these Morons the Difference between sexual assault and rape.. A Rape is a Rape. A Murder is a Murder. A Sexual Assault may differ in description but it's just the Precursor of Rape. It only means that the perpetrators COULD NOT do it rather than DID NOT do it. A Rapist blames everything else than Himself. Don't act like that Criminal. Don't use Alcohol to give the Criminal a 'Free Get

Hina Khan condemns sexual assault and murder in Srinagar, urging society to stop justifying crimes and blaming alcohol or circumstances

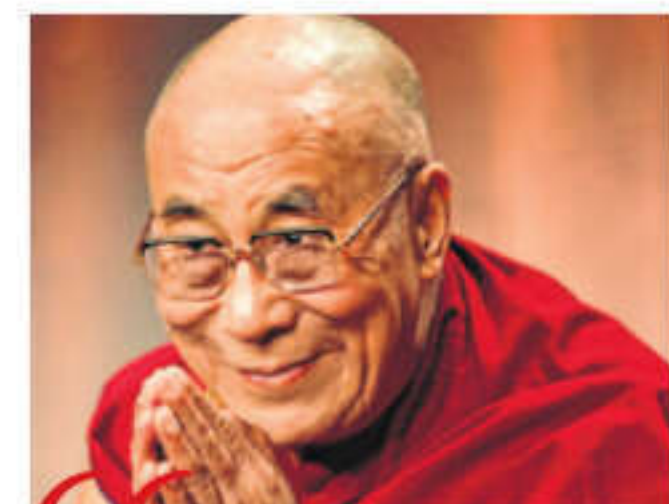
Away Card'. Do not Justify Sexual Assault. Not in the name of Religion, Community, Geography or Attire. These Demons Exist everywhere, in every community, every religion..lurking for Opportunity. Alcohol causes many things but it doesn't make a Good Man a Rapist! Stop Alcohol Blaming and Escapism. Good Men can Handle Alcohol just as they Handle Superior Physical Power compared to a Woman, they use it to Protect Women. A Rapist is not Less than a Killer. He's More. Nothing justifies his actions. it's high time we call out what's happened without mincing words just because it's done by a Kashmiri Muslim and blame Alcohol for your so called Agenda (sic)."



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Happiness is not something readymade. It comes from your own actions

- DALAI LAMA

CLIMATE CHANGE

Richest 10% bigger villains than poorest 50%

Ten per cent of the world's richest individuals have a higher carbon footprint than the poorest 50 per cent, leading to climate extremes such as heat waves and droughts, according to a study on Wednesday. The study, published in the journal Nature Climate Change, that the world's wealthiest 10 per cent are responsible for two-thirds of observed global warming since 1990. "Our study shows that extreme climate impacts are not just the result of abstract global emissions, instead we can directly link them to our lifestyle and investment choices, which in turn are linked to wealth," explains lead author Sarah Schongart. "We found that wealthy emitters play a major role in driving climate extremes, which provides strong



support for climate policies that target the reduction of their emissions," she added. An international team of researchers from Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Australia assessed the contribution of the highest emitting groups within societies.

The findings showed that the top 1 per cent of the wealthiest individuals globally contributed 26 times the global average to increases in monthly 1-in-100-year heat extremes globally. The research sheds new light on the links between income-based emissions inequality and climate injustice, illustrating how the consumption and investments of wealthy individuals have had disproportionate impacts on extreme weather events.

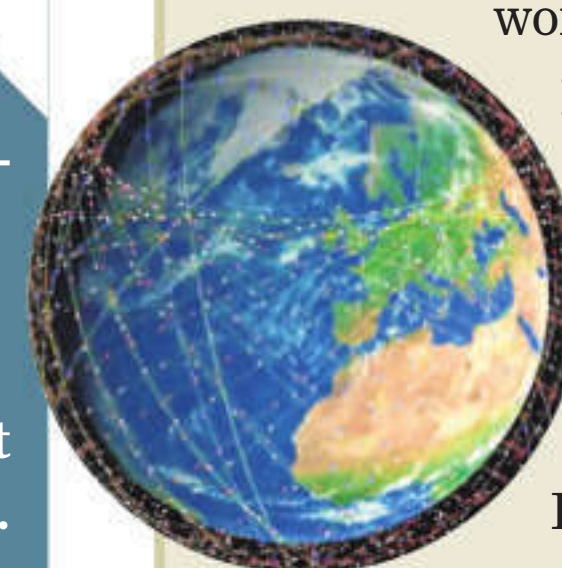
Did you Know?
If everyone had emitted like the bottom 50 per cent of the global population, the world would have seen minimal additional warming since 1990

Together on war on terror

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday asserted that everyone is together in the war on terror. Her comments came after Union Home Minister Amit Shah's urgent meeting of chief ministers, chief secretaries and DGPs of states having borders with Pakistan and Nepal. The meeting was called in the wake of the strikes carried out by the Indian armed forces on terror targets in Pakistan.

Jio adds 21L subscribers

Telecom major Reliance Jio made an addition of about 2.17 million new subscribers out of 2.93 million for the entire industry in the month of March 2025. The telecom company leads with over 74 per cent market share of new subscriber additions. The company is driving industry growth with over 70 per cent market share across categories and continues to strengthen its market leadership further.



2 ANCIENT AYURVEDA TEXTS REVIVED

The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), under the Ministry of Ayush, on Wednesday announced it has revived two rare and significant Ayurvedic texts. The manuscripts Dravyaratnakara Nighau and Dravyanamakara Nighau were unveiled during an event organised by the RRAP Central Ayurveda Research Institute in Mumbai. "These texts are not just historical artefacts -- they are living knowledge systems that can transform contemporary healthcare approaches when studied and applied thoughtfully," said Prof. Vd. Rabinarayan Acharya, Director General, CCRAS, New Delhi. Acharya emphasised the importance of such revivals in bridging India's ancient wisdom with contemporary research frameworks.

GOVT GREENLIGHTS MUSK'S INTERNET

The government has issued Letter of Intent to Starlink for satcom services, sources said on Wednesday. Starlink is a satellite internet service developed by SpaceX -- the American aerospace manufacturer and space transportation company founded in 2002 by world's richest man Elon Musk. It provides high-speed, low-latency broadband internet worldwide using satellite technology. Sources told PTI that the Department of Telecom (DoT) has now issued Letter of Intent to Starlink. Unlike conventional satellite services that rely on distant geostationary satellites, Starlink utilises the world's largest low earth orbit or LEO constellation (550 km above earth).



I'm closely monitoring the situation & govt is fully prepared to deal with any eventuality

- MANOJ SINHA



LOWER PRICES OF EGGS FIRST

Whoopi Goldberg has spoken out against President Donald Trump's proposal to implement a 100 per cent tariff on foreign-produced movies, calling it a move that would limit the US film industry. According to The Hollywood Reporter, in a recent interview, Goldberg shared her strong disapproval of the plan, which was announced by Trump on his Truth Social platform earlier this week.

"Could you please lower the price of eggs before you start this?" Goldberg said, referencing the ongoing rise in domestic consumer prices as she weighed in on Trump's proposal. 'The Color Purple' actress expressed concern that the tariffs would unnecessarily restrict creative freedom in the film industry and negatively impact filmmakers who often rely on international locations to tell their stories

ICC TEST RANKINGS

Jadeja top all-rounder, Bumrah No. 1 bowler

Star India spinner Ravindra Jadeja remained at the top, whereas Bangladesh cricketer Mehidy Hasan Miraz rose in the latest ICC Men's Test Player Rankings for all-rounders, as per the ICC official website. Miraz gained one place to move to second overall on the latest rankings for Test all-rounders on the back of his heroics for Bangladesh in their recent Test series against Zimbabwe, with Jadeja's lead at the top now under 100 rating points. The inform Miraz scored 116 runs and claimed 15 wickets across the two Tests and was rewarded on the updated ICC Men's Test Player Rankings by improving to a new career-best rating of 327 points and within 73 rat-



Miraz also rose two places to 24th overall on the updated list for Test bowlers, with Bangladesh teammates Taijul Islam (up to 16th) and Nay-eem Hasan (up to 54th).

ing points of No. 1-ranked Jadeja. India pacer Jasprit Bumrah maintained his lead as the No. 1-ranked Test bowler, with Zimbabwe spinner Vincent Masekela entering the rankings for the first time just outside the top 100 following his impressive display on debut during the Bangladesh Test.

iOS app to simplify text

Google has introduced a new feature called Simplify in its iOS app, designed to help users better understand complex text online. This feature uses Google's Gemini AI model to generate simpler versions of highlighted text. The Simplify feature can be accessed by highlighting any text on a website and tapping the Simplify icon from the menu options. This feature is particularly useful for breaking down technical jargon, such as medical terms, into more digestible language. For example, Simplify can explain terms like "emphysema" and "fibrosis" in a way that's easy to understand. Google's testing showed that people found the simplified versions to be "significantly more helpful than the original complex text."



Schools in J&K border districts shut

Authorities on Wednesday ordered closure of educational institutions in three border districts of Kashmir as a precautionary measure, hours after Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes on terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, officials said. The Kashmir University has postponed all its examinations scheduled for the day. Fresh date for the conduct of postponed papers shall be notified separately, a University spokesman said. Cluster University also postponed all examinations scheduled for the day. Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, on Wednesday ordered that all educational institutions in Baramulla, and Kupwara districts as well as in Gurez of Bandipora district will remain closed. Authorities have urged the public to remain alert and stay calm, and follow official advisories as a precautionary measure. Some schools around the Srinagar airport have also been closed.



Russia adds 2K seats for Indian med students

Russia continues to be the top choice for Indian students seeking medical education abroad, and Russian universities have a long-standing reputation for providing high-quality medical. Nearly 2,000 additional seats have been added to accommodate the growing number of students keen on pursuing medical courses in Russian universities, Consul General Valerii Khodzhaev of the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Chennai said on Wednesday.



day. education worldwide, he said at an event in Chennai. With the number of Indian students taking up medical courses rising every year, Russia has in-

creased the number of seats from 8,000 to 10,000 in 2024, he said. The increase in seats reflects the growing demand for medical education in Russia.



Fearless in unity. Boundless in strength. There's no room for terrorism in this world - **SACHIN TENDULKAR**

KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES

MEDAL HAT-TRICKS FOR HARSHITA, SUHANI

Harshita Jakhar achieved a golden hat-trick at the Khelo India Youth Games 2025 cycling events, being held at the Velodrome, Indira Gandhi Stadium in Delhi. In her debut participation itself, the 18-year-old from Rajasthan has made the KIYG a memorable one for herself. She won the gold on Wednesday in the 2km Individual Pursuit event, recording a time of 02:35.178. The silver medalist - Bhumika of Haryana registered time of 02:41.621. "Since I'm transitioning to the senior event, the competition hasn't been too tough for me to be honest," Harshita, who is a part of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' Target Asian Games Group (TAGG) program, told SAI Media. The bronze medal in the 2km Individual Pursuit event, meanwhile, belonged to Suhani Kumari of Bihar. This was incidentally also Suhani's third



Did you Know?

Harshita's cousin brother Aditya meanwhile bagged gold in the 200m boys' sprint event and in the process, clinched his 2nd gold of KIYG 2025. He earlier won the yellow metal in the 1km Time Trial event.

medal in the cycling events - having won silver earlier in the 7.5km Scratch Race as well as a team silver in the girls' sprint. "I have enjoyed playing here. The tournament has been very well organised and I have tried my best in inspiring Bihar to bag more medals, through my feat this time," mentioned the 18-year-old Suhani, currently a trainee of Sports Authority of India National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) Patiala.

Indian archers to play for gold

India's men's and women's teams booked their spots in the compound team finals at the second stage of the Archery World Cup in Shanghai after respective semifinal wins. The men's team featuring ever-consistent Abhishek Verma alongside Ojas Pravin Deotale and Rishabh Yadav narrowly defeated Denmark, in a tight semifinal. The men's team, which topped the qualification leaderboard with 2134, received the first round bye and began their campaign with a 239-232 quarterfinal win over Great Britain. The women's team, which had also received a bye in the opening round, reached the gold medal match by outshooting Great Britain.



Bright start for Kidambi

Star Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth started his campaign on a bright note with a straight game win over as he, along with a host of other youngsters, progressed to the second round of the Taipei Open Super 300 Badminton Tournament in Taipei on Wednesday. World No. 61 Srikanth, who is battling an extended lean patch, dispatched fellow Indian Sankar Subramanian, a 2022 world junior championships silver medalist, to enter the second round. The 32-year-old, a silver-medallist at the 2021 World Championships, will face another Indian Ayush Shetty, a 2023 world junior championships bronze medallist.



IPL TO PROCEED AS PER SCHEDULE

Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025, which is close to its business end, will proceed as planned amid the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan. There are a number of overseas players and commentators present in India for the IPL, which began on March 22. The cricketing extravaganza, which has 74 matches in its roster of which 56 have already taken place across various venues, concludes on May 25.



BCCI WISHES ALL THE BEST TO ROHIT

Team India skipper Rohit Sharma has formally announced his retirement from Test cricket, drawing the curtain on a remarkable chapter of his international career. Following the announcement, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) extended its gratitude and best wishes to the veteran player. The BCCI posted on their X handle, "Thank you, Captain, End of an era in whites! He will continue to lead India in ODIs. We are proud of you, Hitman."



QUICK NEWS

Satirical take on Hollywood

Streaming service Apple TV+ has greenlit "The Studio", a satirical series exploring the inner workings of Hollywood, for a second season. The renewal comes two weeks ahead of the show's season finale, which is set for May 21. "The Studio" features Seth Rogen as Matt Remick, a movie executive.

Actors praise Indian op

Actors Rajinikanth, Akshay Kumar, Kangana Ranaut, and Allu Arjun praised Indian armed forces for carrying out missile strikes early Wednesday in Pakistan in retaliation against the barbaric terror attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 civilians. South superstar Rajinikanth praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the success of 'Operation Sindoor

Precision, restraint

Aclaimed filmmaker Shekhar Kapur has praised India's measured and confident response to the Pahalgam terrorist attack, commending its precision and restraint from war rhetoric. He stated that Operation Sindoor was a targeted strike against the territories and organizations that supported the perpetrators responsible for the killing of innocent civilians.

Best Podcast added to Golden Globes

Golden Globes 2026 ceremony will be a bit different as a new category has been added to it. The organisers announced a new award category honoring the best podcast of the year, broadening its recognition of creative storytelling. The category will debut at the 83rd Golden Globe Awards, scheduled for January 11, 2026. Organizers said the move reflects the growing influence and reach of podcasts in the entertainment industry. "As the world of entertainment continues to evolve, we are excited to recognize new forms of storytelling," said Helen Hoehne, president of the Golden Globes.





Your (Rohit Sharma) presence and impact will echo in that dressing room forever

- RISHABH PANT



TO CONTINUE PLAYING IN ODIs

Rohit bids goodbye to Test cricket

Rohit Sharma on Wednesday announced his retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect ending all speculations about his future in the longest format and leaving India in the need of a new captain for the upcoming five-match series against England.

The 38-year-old was India's most prolific Test batter in the second half of his career, scoring 4301 runs in 67 Tests with 12 hundreds and 18 half-centuries at an average of 40.57. Having already retired from T20 Internationals after the World Cup last year, Rohit will now only be seen

leading India in the ODI format. "Hello everyone, I would just like to share that I am retiring from Test cricket. It's been an absolute honour to represent my country in whites. "Thank you for all the love and support over the years. I will continue to represent India in the ODI format," he posted on Instagram

with a picture of his Test cap after PTI's newsbreak. Rohit captained India to the World Test Championship final against Australia and had a fairly decent run in the format save the last couple of indifferent series against New Zealand at home and the Border-Gavaskar showdown against Australia earlier this year.

Did you Know?
Rohit endured a particularly difficult run during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy where he had to drop himself from the playing XI owing to poor form

IPL match at Dharamshala gets government nod

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has received clearance from the Indian government to host match between Punjab Kings (PBKS) and Delhi Capitals (DC) match on Thursday of the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) in Dharamshala at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium. However, the May 11 match has been shifted from

Dharmshala to Mumbai, and the new date for the match will be updated soon. As Dharamshala is located near the India-Pakistan border, there might be a threat at this venue, so there is a chance that the Punjab-based franchise will play their remaining home matches at a different place. "BCCI gets clearance from the government to host tomorrow's match in Dharamshala, but the May 11 match shifted to Mumbai from Dharmshala, the fresh date for the match will be updated soon," BCCI sources told ANI.



INDIA SEAL PLACE IN ODI TRI-SERIES

Jemimah Rodrigues' smashed a superb 123, while Amanjot Kaur picked 3-59 on her international comeback as India beat South Africa by 23 runs and sealed their spot in the final of women's ODI tri-series at the R Premadasa International Cricket Stadium on Wednesday. Pushed into batting first, India were reduced to 50/3 in seven overs. But Jemimah, coming out to bat at number five, stepped up with her variety of sweeps and beautiful shots over extra cover, apart from proactive strike rotation, to hit her second ODI hundred in just 88 balls.



English players want to leave Pak

English players involved in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) want to leave the country following the precision strikes by India during Operation Sindoor in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack in Kashmir, which claimed 26 innocent lives. Hours after the midnight strike by Indian armed forces on terror infrastructures in the country, the Pakistan

Cricket Board on Wednesday vowed to continue holding the remaining matches of the Pakistan Super League. However, the English players in PSL face a decision over whether to remain in the country. Seven England players -- Sam Billings, James Vince, Tom Curran, David Willey, Chris Jordan, Tom Kohler-Candmore and Luke Wood - are involved in PSL.



'BEST OUT OF WASTE' WORKSHOP @SUMMER CAMP



A multipurpose summer training camp was organized at Government Sandipani Ahilyashram Girls Higher Secondary School No. 2, Indore, where students engaged in a wide range of skill-building activities designed to enhance creativity, fitness, and sportsmanship.

As part of the camp, master trainers Uma Tiwari and Deepika Bagora conducted a special session on creating useful and decorative items from

waste materials. The session aimed to teach students how to recycle and repurpose materials typically discarded as garbage. Using simple examples such as terracotta glasses and other household items, the trainers demonstrated how waste could be transformed into showcase-worthy crafts and practical products.

School principal Deepak Halve stated that the initiative not only promoted creativity but also encouraged environmental awareness

among students. "These workshops help inculcate a sense of responsibility and innovation in our students," he said.

The camp also featured fitness and recreational activities. Yoga instructors Anita Sharma and Khushboo Verma taught students various yoga postures, integrating rhythmic Zumba dance to make fitness both enjoyable and effective.

Additionally, sports instructors Ashok Yadav and Shirish Kalanki

introduced students to the basics and techniques of indoor and outdoor games including badminton, sitoliya, chess, and carrom. Students enthusiastically participated and showed keen interest in learning the rules and strategies of each game.

The summer camp successfully combined learning with fun, offering students a valuable platform to explore new skills, express creativity, and stay active during the holidays.

Finding Ourselves in the Act of Giving



A helping hand, a listening ear-
A gesture small, yet oh so dear.
To be there for another in need
Is a joy that blooms like a seed.
When we give, our hearts feel light,
A warmth that glows, a pure delight.
The smile we bring, the hope we share-
Are treasures rare, beyond compare.
In helping others, we come to find

A deeper peace, a heart aligned.
The joy of giving, love sincere,
A gift for all, both far and near.
So let us lend a hand, a voice, a heart
To those in need-let kindness start.
For in the joy of helping, we'll see
A love that grows in you and me.
HAWRAHROKADIYA
Class 11
MSB educational institute,
Indore



Indore Students Set to Appear for June 2025 Open School Examinations Under 'Ruk Jana Nahi' and 'Aa Laut Chalein' Schemes

Madhya Pradesh State Open School Education Board (MPSOS) will conduct the first phase of examinations for June 2025 beginning from June 2. These exams are particularly significant for thousands of students from Indore who are participating under the 'Ruk Jana Nahi' and 'Aa Laut Chalein' schemes, which provide crucial opportunities for students who have either failed their previous exams or dropped out of school for various reasons.

The number of students enrolled under the 'Ruk Jana Nahi' and 'Aa Laut Chalein' schemes has grown in recent years in Indore. In the previous academic cycle, around 10,000 students from Indore took part in the 'Ruk Jana Nahi' scheme, while hundreds of dropouts enrolled under the 'Aa Laut Chalein' program.

To ensure smooth conduct of the exams, the MPSOS has set up 20 examination centres across Indore.

Examination Schedule and Participation

The exams will be conducted in two shifts. The first shift from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM will cover Class 12 exams, while the second shift from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM will focus on Class 10, 8, and 5 exams. In total, over 10,000 students from Indore are expected to attempt the exams, including candidates enrolled under the 'Ruk Jana Nahi' scheme, the 'Aa Laut Chalein' program, and traditional Open School students.

This year's exam cycle will also see students who had previously been unable to take their exams due to various reasons, including financial constraints, illness, or other personal issues, given a second chance. With over 14,000 students from Indore failing or missing out on their exams last



year, this opportunity is critical for them to continue their education without further delay.

'Ruk Jana Nahi' and 'Aa Laut Chalein' Schemes: Giving Students a Second Chance

The 'Ruk Jana Nahi' scheme, launched in 2016, offers students who have failed their Class 10 or 12 board exams a chance to reappear and pass the exams within the same academic year. By allowing students to retake exams in June and again in December if necessary, this initiative ensures that they do not lose valuable academic time.

The 'Aa Laut Chalein' scheme, designed to reintegrate school dropouts aged 14 to 18, offers stu-

dents the chance to complete their education through the Open School system. This scheme allows students who have left school for various reasons to return and appear for Class 10 and 12 exams, providing them with a much-needed opportunity to continue their studies and catch up with their peers.

Both schemes are part of a broader effort to reduce dropout rates and ensure universal access to education in Madhya Pradesh. In Indore, the schemes have helped numerous students return to the classroom, giving them the tools they need to succeed and progress in their academic careers.

CLASSROOM REFLECTION ON KINDNESS



In a classroom, a thoughtful discussion about the joy of helping others unfolded. The teacher asked the students, "Have you ever helped someone and felt the joy of helping them?"

Student 1 shared a heartwarming experience: "Yes, teacher. There were four puppies near my home. I saw they were shivering from the cold, so my friends and I built them a little house to protect them from the cold and rain."

Student 2 replied, "I haven't had the chance to help anyone yet, but I've seen my father helping poor people by giving them food and clothes. It made me really happy to see their faces light up with joy."



Student 3 added, "One of my classmates forgot to bring his tiffin box, and during recess, I saw he was very hungry. I offered to share my lunch with him, and he was so happy." The teacher nodded with pride, asking, "Did you all feel the joy of helping others then?" The students responded in unison, "Yes, teacher!"

The teacher then shared an important lesson: "Helping others can not only bring joy but also help you connect with people and build strong support networks. It's a blessing that teaches you to be a great person."

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